BRIT-CIT NOIR

FEATURING: STRANGE & DARKE // STORM WARNING

FROM THE PAGES OF JUDGE DREDD

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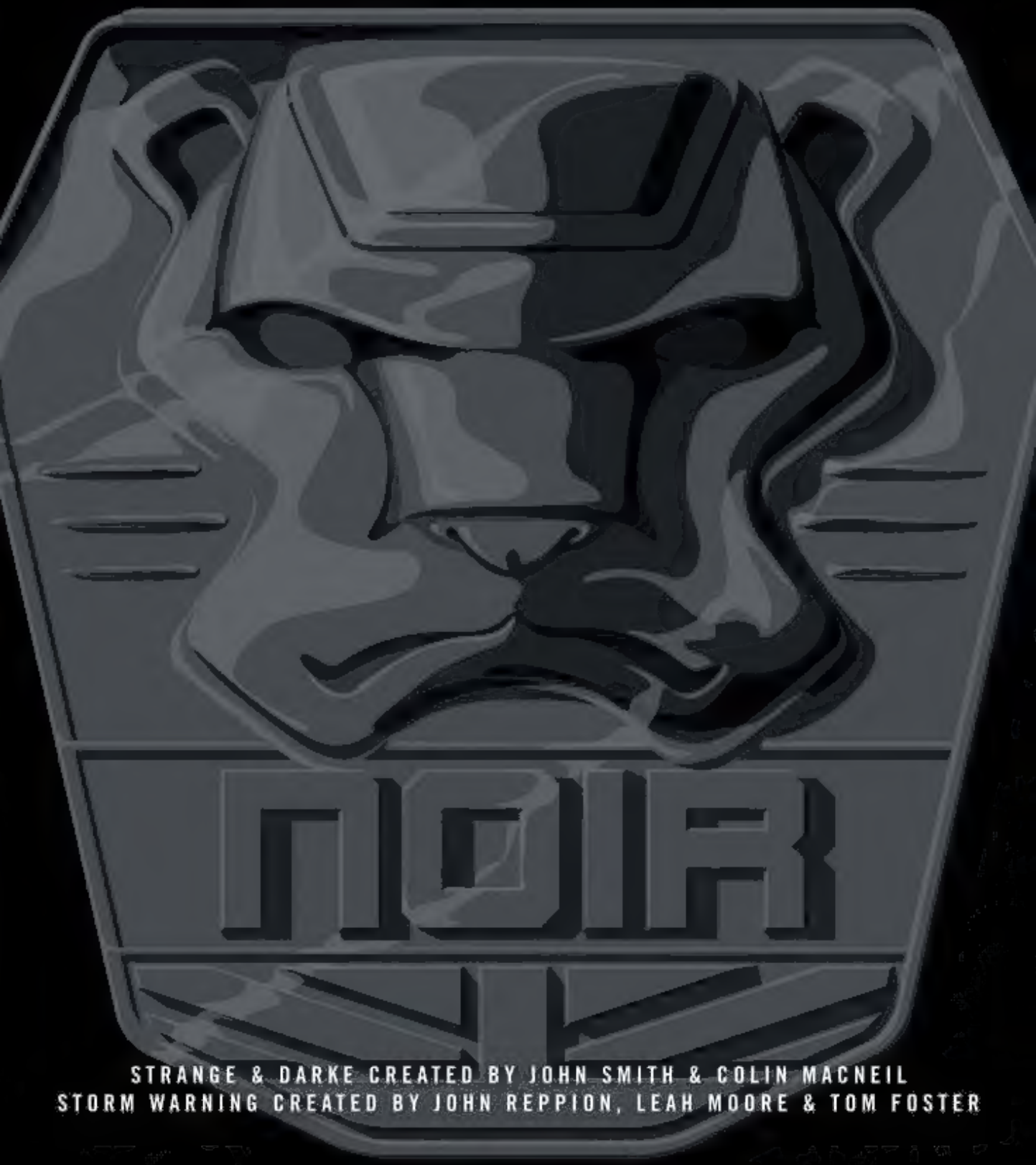

STRANGE & DARKE CREATED BY JOHN SMITH & COLIN MACNEIL
STORM WARNING CREATED BY JOHN REPPION, LEAH MOORE & TOM FOSTER

STRANGE & DARKE: NEW BLOOD

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THE SOUTH WALES PENINSULA:
AHHHHHH!
OH GODDD!
OH JESUS, PLEASE! GET IT OUT OF ME!
... P-PLEASE, GOD... I J-JUST WANT IT OUT!
THERE NOW, CERYS. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, YOU'LL SEE. YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST TO HAVE A BABY, AND YOU CERTAINLY WON'T BE THE LAST...
IT'S COMING, REVEREND! THERE, SEE!
ALMOST THERE, CERYS. I JUST NEED YOU TO PUSH NOW. CAN YOU DO THAT, MY CHILD? I WANT YOU TO PUSH WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT...
OH GODDD!
THAT'S IT. LOOK. PUSH, CERYS! I CAN SEE IT! PUSH!
-NUH-NUH-NUH- HUNNNN-
IT'S COMING, SEE? SWEET LORD, IT'S COMING! I CAN SEE ITS HOOVES!

CONGRATULATIONS, MY DEAR!
YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL HEALTHY BABY BOY...
OH, AND LOOK, REVEREND BAYLISS! LOOK!
HE HAS HIS FATHER'S EYES!

BRIT-CIT:
ΩIM
BEKKY DARKE
PSI DIVISION.
YOU 'ERE FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS NIBS, I TAKE IT? RATHER YOU THAN ME, MUSS.
MIND IF I GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE BEFORE YOU GO IN THERE?
TRY NOT TO SCREAM WHEN YOU SEE HIM, EH?
BARKER

JUDGE DARKE.
COME IN AND PULL UP A PEW, LUV. DESPITE APPEARANCES TO THE CONTRARY, I PROMISE YOU I DON'T BITE.
INSPECTOR J. STRANGE
THANK YOU, SIR.
I'M DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JERICHO STRANGE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES SQUAD.
I KNOW. I'VE SEEN YOU ON THAT PROGRAMME ON TV. YOU SCARE THE SHIT OUT OF MY LITTLE BROTHER.
FUNNY, I GET THAT A LOT.
SO DO YOU HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA WHY YOU'VE BEEN SENT HERE, JUDGE DARKE?
WELL, IT'S NOT FOR MY CHARM AND WIT, SO I ASSUME IT'S SOME KIND OF DISCIPLINARY HEARING AFTER MY RUN IN WITH SENIOR JUDGE ROHMER...

HMM. YOU HAVE BEEN A BIT OF A NAUGHTY GIRL RECENTLY, HAVEN'T YOU?
INSUBORDINATION — EXTRA-JUDICIAL LIAISONS — RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT OF FELLOW JUDGES... YOU'VE RUN UP QUITE A LIST.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY WE ASKED YOU HERE. IN FACT, THOSE APPARENT WEAKNESSES ARE THE VERY QUALITIES WE VALUE IN THE E.S.S.
I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU A JOB, JUDGE DARKE.
...CROKK ME SIDEWAYS WITH A FEATHER DUSTER...
AH, THAT'S IT, THEN IS IT? THE INFAMOUS 'VOICE OF UNREASON'?
DON'T LOOK SO EMBARRASSED BY IT, LASS. THERE'S NO NEED TO BE. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU MEET SOMEONE WITH A SUPER-NUMERARY MOUTH IN THEIR NECK.
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN TALKING?
SINCE I HAD MY FIRST PERIOD.
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT. A LOT OF THESE WILD TALENTS SEEM TO KICK IN AT PUBERTY. SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HORMONES AND ALL THAT MALARKY.
ACCORDING TO YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS IT'S CLASSED AS A 'BENIGN GOITROUS TERATOMA'.
TASTY.
'DARKE IS A LOW-GRADE TELEMPATH'... BLAH BLAH BLAH... 'THE GROWTH VOCALISES THE SUB-CONSCIOUS THOUGHTS OF THE PATIENT AND THOSE AROUND HER'...
IT'S LIKE A VENTRILOQUIST'S DUMMY WITH A MIND OF ITS OWN. IT DRIVES ME ROUND THE DROOKING BEND, SOMETIMES.

I'LL BET, THEY CAN BE NASTY BEGGARS, THEM TERATOMAS.
THERE WAS THIS ONE KID IN MY OLD SCHOOL, HAD THIS CONGENITAL DISEASE. THEY GREW ON HIM FASTER THAN YOU COULD CUT THEM OFF.
WEIRD LITTLE TUMOURS WITH HAIR AND TEETH AND BONE... EVEN EYES IN SOME OF 'EM. WE USED TO GIVE THEM ALL SORTS OF DAFT NAMES.
WHAT DO YOU CALL YOURS?"
THE MOUTH — AND IT GETS ROYALLY ON MY TITS, ALWAYS WHISPERING AND MUTTERING AND NIGGLING AWAY AT ME.
THE QUACKS SAY IT'S SUBVERBAL LEAKAGE BUT IT'S A BIT LIKE HAVING TELEPATHIC TOURETTE'S.
WELL, FAR BE IT FROM ME TO PISS ON YOUR CHIPS, LUV, BUT THAT SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE DO HERE IN THE E.S.S., JUDGE DARKE?"
VAGUELY. I'VE HEARD RUMOURS IN THE CANTEEN AND LOCKER ROOM, YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE TALK...
IT'S A FAR CRY FROM PSI DIVISION, LUV. WE'RE NOT CONSTANTLY TRYING TO QUANTIFY AND QUALIFY AND JUDGE YOU. NONE OF THAT BOLLOCKS.
IT'S NOT GLAMOROUS, AND THE FUNDING'S LOUSY, BUT WE GET TO DO OUR OWN THING OUR OWN WAY.
WE'RE UNCONVENTIONAL, JUDGE DARKE, BUT WE GET THE JOB DONE.
PUT THE MOUSE IN WITH THE CAT, PLEASE.

I, I BEG YOUR PARDON SIR!
YOU HEARD ME, LASS. JUST PUT THE MOUSE IN WITH THE CAT
IS THIS, JIM, IS THIS SOME KIND OF TEST OR PSYCH EVALUATION OR SOMETHING?
... HAD ENOUGH OF THOSE IN MY TIME WITH PSI DIVISION...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
NOW GO ON PUT THE MOUSE IN WITH THE CAT, THERE'S A GOOD GIRL
... SHE'S NEVER GOING TO DO IT, IS SHE?
CAREFUL, SPECTOR. YOUR THOUGHTS ARE LEAKING
SQUEEK!

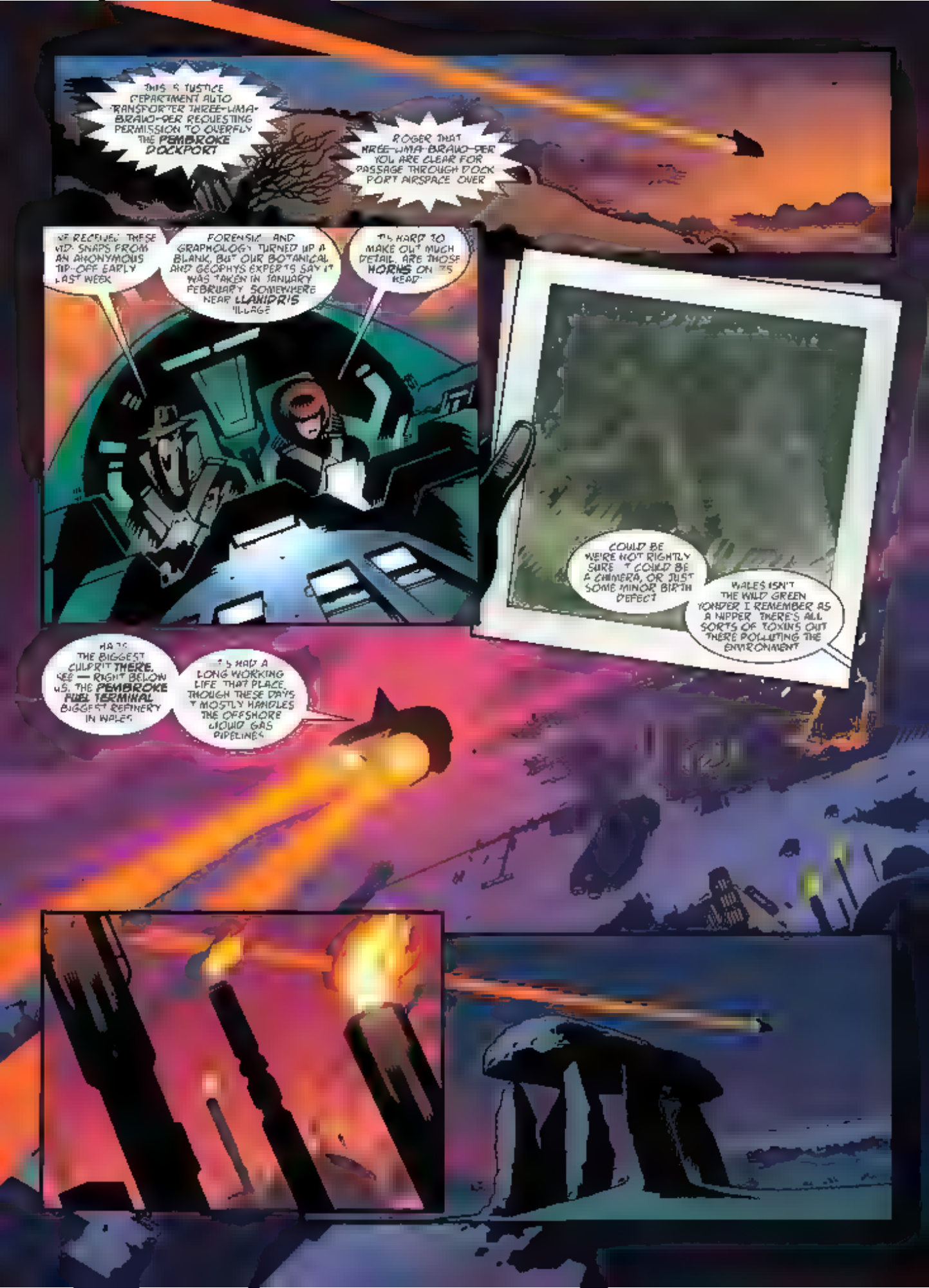
ARE YOU going TO DO THIS?
...ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO DO THIS?
HISSSS
GRRRR
CHOP
MROWRR
BUUUP
THAT'S WHAT WE DO IN THE E.S.S

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT THING BACK THERE
WE'VE NOT EXACTLY BEEN SURE TO BE HONEST BUT THE LADS IN THE BESTIARY HAVE TAKEN TO CALLING THEM RIPPER-SNAPPERS.
THEY'RE MADE OF A SORT OF PSEUDOPLASM THAT CAN MIMIC OTHER ORGANISMS I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND THE BIOLOGY
OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS WE'VE HAD OUTBREAKS ALL ACROSS BRIT
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU GUYS DO DOWN HERE COLLECT ALL THESE WEIRD LITTLE CRITTERS SO YOU CAN STUDY THEM AND DISSECT THEM AND SHIT?
OH, IT'S A LOT MORE THAN THAT WE DON'T JUST STUDY THEM — WE BREED THEM TOO OR TRY TO, ANYWAY
THIS PLANET'S GOING DOWN THE SHITTER JUDGE DARKE WE'RE SCREWING UP THE ENVIRONMENT LIKE NEVER BEFORE WIPING OUT SPECIES AND HABITATS LEFT RIGHT AND CENTRE
IT'S A FULL SCALE HOLOCENE EXTINCTION EVENT AND IF WE DON'T BUCK UP OUR ACT FAST THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT IN THIS WORLD BUT INSECTS AND SLIME MOLD
WHAT DO YOU SAY GUY- YOU WANT TO JOIN US OR DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THOSE ARSEHOLES IN PSI DIVISION?
WE'VE HAD SIGHTINGS OF SATYR-LIKE CRYPTIDS ON THE SOUTH WELSH PENINSULA AND WE COULD REALLY DO WITH A HAND OUT THERE
INSPECTOR, IT SOUNDS LIKE MY DREAM JOB
GOOD GIRL. WELCOME TO THE TEAM. THEN
NOW TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND WE'LL HAVE A GANDER AT THE BESTIARY SHALL WE

BLOKK ME SIDEWAYS
WE'RE IN ONE GIANT UNDERGROUND NATURE RESERVE IT'S LIKE IT'S LUKE NARNIA OR FAIRYLAND OR SOMETHING
THIS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN STATIONS ON THE OLD TUBE NETWORK WAY BACK WHEN WE HIVED OFF DIFFERENT HABITATS AS PART OF OUR CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAMME
QUITE AN EYEFUL ISN'T IT?
MERMAIDS .OOH I DON'T BELIEVE THIS PLACE
MERMEN TOO. SEE: NOT MUCH POINT HAVING ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER S THERE: WE DO OUR BEST TO LET NATURE RUN ITS COURSE HERE KEEP THE ART-INSEM DOWN TO A MINIMUM

OH MY GRUD! ARE THOSE SPHINXES?
DON'T LET THEM HEAR YOU CALLING 'EM THAT. THEY'RE LAMASSU — A SUBSPECIES INDIGENOUS TO IRAQ. YOU'RE LOOKING AT BABYLONIAN MYTHOLOGY IN THE FLESH
WE'VE GOT SIX BREEDING PRIDES HERE, AND WE'VE HAD QUITE A BIT OF SUCCESS REINTRODUCING THEM BACK INTO THE WILD
HERE'S WHERE WE KEEP THE HARPIES. AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S FEEDING TIME RIGHT NOW. MIND YOU, IT'S ALWAYS FEEDING TIME WITH THESE BEGGARS
THE KEEPERS TRY TO GET 'EM NOT TO SHIT WHERE THEY EAT, BUT THEY DON'T TAKE A BLIND BIT OF NOTICE. TYPICAL BLOODY FEMALES FOR YOU
...WHAT'S ALL THIS SPOOKY SHIT IN HERE?
NEVER YOU MIND ABOUT THIS ONE LASS. THE LESS YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS ENCLOSURE THE BETTER
...THE HALLS OF MIRRORS... CLATTER OF WEAPONS ECHOING FROM THE LOOKING-GLASS...
JUDGE DARKE! I SAID COME ON! I AM NOT MUCKING ABOUT HERE
BLOODY AMATEURS. YOU SHOULD'VE CLOSED THAT EXTRA MOUTH OF YOURS, THE GOBSHITE
ANYWAY, THAT'S THE BESTIARY FOR YOU. NOW WE'D BETTER GET CRACKING IF WE'RE GOING TO CATCH THE NEXT SHUTTLE TO WALES
I HOPE YOU BROUGHT A CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR WITH YOU, LUV, BECAUSE WE MIGHT BE OUT THERE A WHILE

LLANIDRIS, SOUTH WALES PENINSULA
THE THREE GOATS
OI! YOU FINISH DRINKING UP NOW FELLAS?
IT'S WELL PAST MIDNIGHT. LOOK WAY OFF HOME WITH YOU NOW OR YOUR WIVES'LL BE THINKING YOU'VE GOT LOST
THAT MEANS YOU TOO, REVEREND BAYLISS YOU'VE A BUSY WEEKEND AHEAD OF YOU, REMEMBER?
IF YOU'RE AS DRUNK AS A SKUNK DRESSING THE ALTAR LIKE YOU WERE LAST YEAR I'LL HAVE YOUR GUTS FOR GARTERS
YOU MIGHT HAVE THE MOUTH OF A FISHWIFE GWENITH, LOVE, BUT YOU'VE THE ARSE OF AN ANGEL ON YOU
XLAP!
OI! YOU KEEP THEM ROVING HANDS TO YOURSELF DAFYDD MERRION. THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT COME SUNDAY
IS IT YOU OMORROW THEN GWENITH AND GIVE MY LOVE TO YOUR ZERYS NOW, WON'T YOU
I WILL, REVEREND SHE'LL BE UPSTAIRS NOW GIVING HIM HIS FEED I SHOULDN'T WONDER
WELL, THAT'S ONE THING WE HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL FOR. OUR PRECIOUS LITTLE MIRACLES ARE ALWAYS BORN HUNGRY
AOW!
STOP BITING YOU

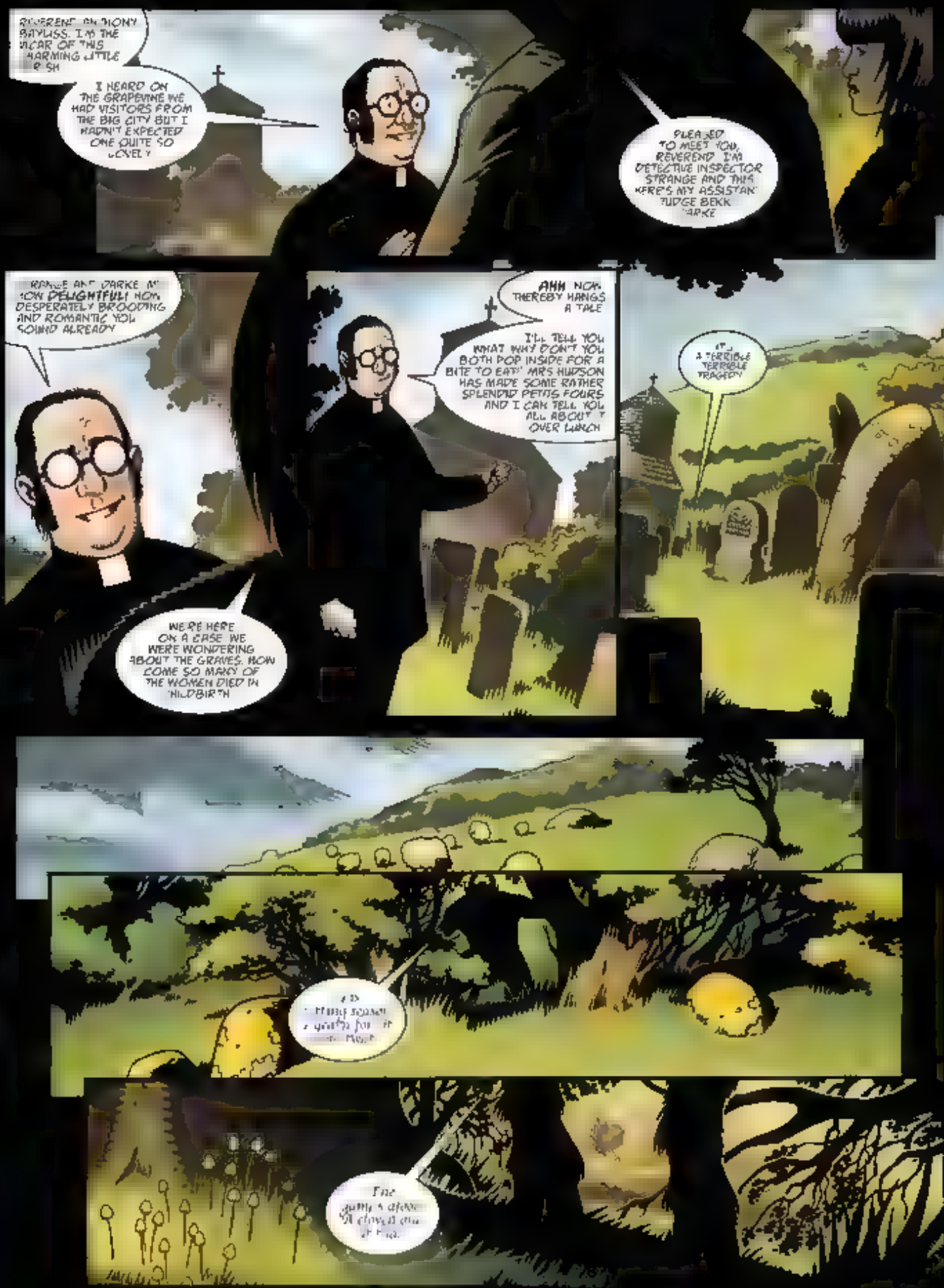

THIS IS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AUTO TRANSPORTER THREE-LIMA-BRAVO-ORE REQUESTING PERMISSION TO OVERFLY THE PEMBROKE DOCKPORT
ROGER THAT THREE-LIMA-BRAVO-ORE YOU ARE CLEAR FOR PASSAGE THROUGH DOCK PORT AIRSPACE OVER
WE RECEIVED THESE VID SNAPS FROM AN ANONYMOUS TIP-OFF EARLY LAST WEEK
FORENSIC AND GRAPHOLOGY TURNED UP A BLANK, BUT OUR BOTANICAL AND GEOPHYS EXPERTS SAY IT WAS TAKEN IN JANUARY FEBRUARY SOMEWHERE NEAR LLANDRIS VILLAGE
IT'S HARD TO MAKE OUT MUCH DETAIL. ARE THOSE HORNS ON ITS HEAD?
COULD BE WE'RE NOT RIGHTLY SURE IT COULD BE A CHIMERA, OR JUST SOME MINOR BIRTH DEFECT
WALES ISN'T THE WILD GREEN YONDER I REMEMBER AS A NIPPER THERE'S ALL SORTS OF TOXINS OUT THERE POLLUTING THE ENVIRONMENT
HA'S THE BIGGEST CULPRIT THERE, SEE — RIGHT BELOW US. THE PEMBROKE FUEL TERMINAL BIGGEST REFINERY IN WALES
IT'S HAD A LONG WORKING LIFE THAT PLACE. THOUGH THESE DAYS IT MOSTLY HANDLES THE OFFSHORE LIQUID GAS PIPELINES

HAIMA-
AHAT-HAIMA-HUM
ASAIAS HAIMA
HAIAS
...ME WITH KNIFE AND COME WITH PIPE: AM I NO RIPE?
I WHO WAIT AND WRITHE AND WRESTLE WITH AIR THAT HATH NO BOUGHS TO NESTLE
MY BODY WEARY OF EMPTY CLASP STRONG AS A LION AND SHARP AS AN ASP
COME. O COME I AM -
NOK NOKK NOKK
NOW WHO'S THAT AT THIS HOUR-
IF THAT'S YOU BACK, DARYOD MERRION, I SWEAR I'LL -

OH MY LORD
EVENIN
SORRY IF I GAVE YOU A START THERE MA'AM, BUT WE'RE WONDERING IF THERE'S ANY ROOM AT THE INN
OH MY! I N-NEARLY HAD KITTENS! YOU CAUGHT ME OFF MY GUARD THERE, SO YOU DID
COME IN, COME IN I RECOGNISE YOU NOW, OF COURSE YOU'RE HIM FROM OFF THE TELLY AREN'T YOU BUT STRANGE FELL
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JERICHO STRANGE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES SQUAD — AND THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE JUDGE BEKKY DARKE
YOU'RE NEVER HERE TO DO A JELLY SHOW ARE YOU? NOT IN OUR SLEEPY LITTLE NECK OF THE WOODS?
WELL THERE'S NOT MUCH OF THAT AROUND THESE PARTS DEAR I'LL TELL YOU THAT FOR NOTHING UNLESS YOU'RE ONE FOR HYMNS AND HARVEST FESTIVALS THAT IS
PLEASE WE'RE WORK COLLEAGUES NOT BED FELLOWS
WE'RE CONSIDERING IT YES THOUGH THIS IS MORE OF A FACT-FINDING MISSION RIGHT NOW
WE JUST NEED LODGINGS FOR A DAY OR TWO WHILE WE HAVE A SCOUT AROUND GET A FEEL FOR THE PLACE SOAK UP THE LOCAL COLOUR YOU KNOW
... AND HE HEAD WALKS THE HOLLOW HILLS...
WHAT WERE THAT? WAS THAT ME THINKING ALOUD AGAIN? I MUST BE GOING DOOLALLY IN MY OLD AGE
ANYWAY NEVER MIND ME LET'S SEE ABOUT THIS ROOM YOU'LL BE WANTING
NOT THAT I'D KICK HER OUT OF BED OF COURSE
H

KNOCK KNOCK
MORNIN' DEAR I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HUNGRY SO I BROUGHT YOU UP A PROPER WELSH BREAKFAST LUV
S MY BOY S UP YET
YOUR INSPECTOR STRANGE WAS UP AT FIRST LIGHT SO HE WAS HE'S OUT THERE NOW, POKING AROUND
THE CHILDREN HAVE TAKEN QUITE A SHINE TO HIM
JUST WISH HE HADN'T GONE AND PARKED THAT MONSTROSITY OF YOURS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN
JUDGE STRANGE! JUDGE STRANGE!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH TOO MISTER?
MY DAD SAYS IT'S REALLY A MASK
NO, IT'S A HOLO-HEAD DUMMY
SOMEONE MAKES FRIENDS FAST LOOKS LIKE YOUR WHOLE FAN CLUB S HERE
TELL ME ABOUT T BUT IT'S EITHER THIS OR WALK ROUND WITH A BAG OVER MY HEAD
SUCKS
COME ON NOW YOU NOT THAT'S ENOUGH GRIEF FOR ONE DAY TS HIGH TIME YOU GOT OFF TO SCHOOL ISN'T IT!
JUDGE DARKE AND ME HAVE WORK TO DO

SO REMIND ME AGAIN, SIR, WHY WE'RE TRAIPSING ROUND HERE LIKE A COUPLE OF LOVE SICK GOTHS?
THERE'S THAT ATTITUDE OF YOURS AGAIN, JUDGE DARKE
ONCE YOU'VE DONE THIS JOB A WHILE YOU'LL REALISE YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT A PLACE FROM THE LOCAL GRAVEYARD
ERE NOW SEE WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
GWYNETH JONES, AGE THIRTY DIED IN CHILD BIRTH
Beloved mother and wife
2084 2109
&
Beloved daughter
MEGAN
2109
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE HERE, LOOK, AND HERE
THE PLACE IS FULL OF WOMEN WHO DIED GIVING BIRTH THEIR BABIES TOO, SEE? FOR A PERIOD OF THIRTY ODD YEARS IT LOOKS LIKE INFANT MORTALITY WAS ALMOST ONE HUNDRED PER CENT
DOZENS OF THEM HERE WHAT DO YOU THINK CAUSED IT?
DAVID
2107
NO IDEA POLLUTANTS, MAYBE? CONTAMINANTS IN THE WATER TABLE? WE WON'T KNOW PROPERLY UNTIL WE'VE RUN AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
WE NEED TO TAKE SOIL SAMPLES FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE AND GET THEM BACK TO THE TECH BOYS FOR ANALYSIS
OH MY
YOU'VE FOUND OUR POOR, DEAR, FALLEN MOTHERS I SEE

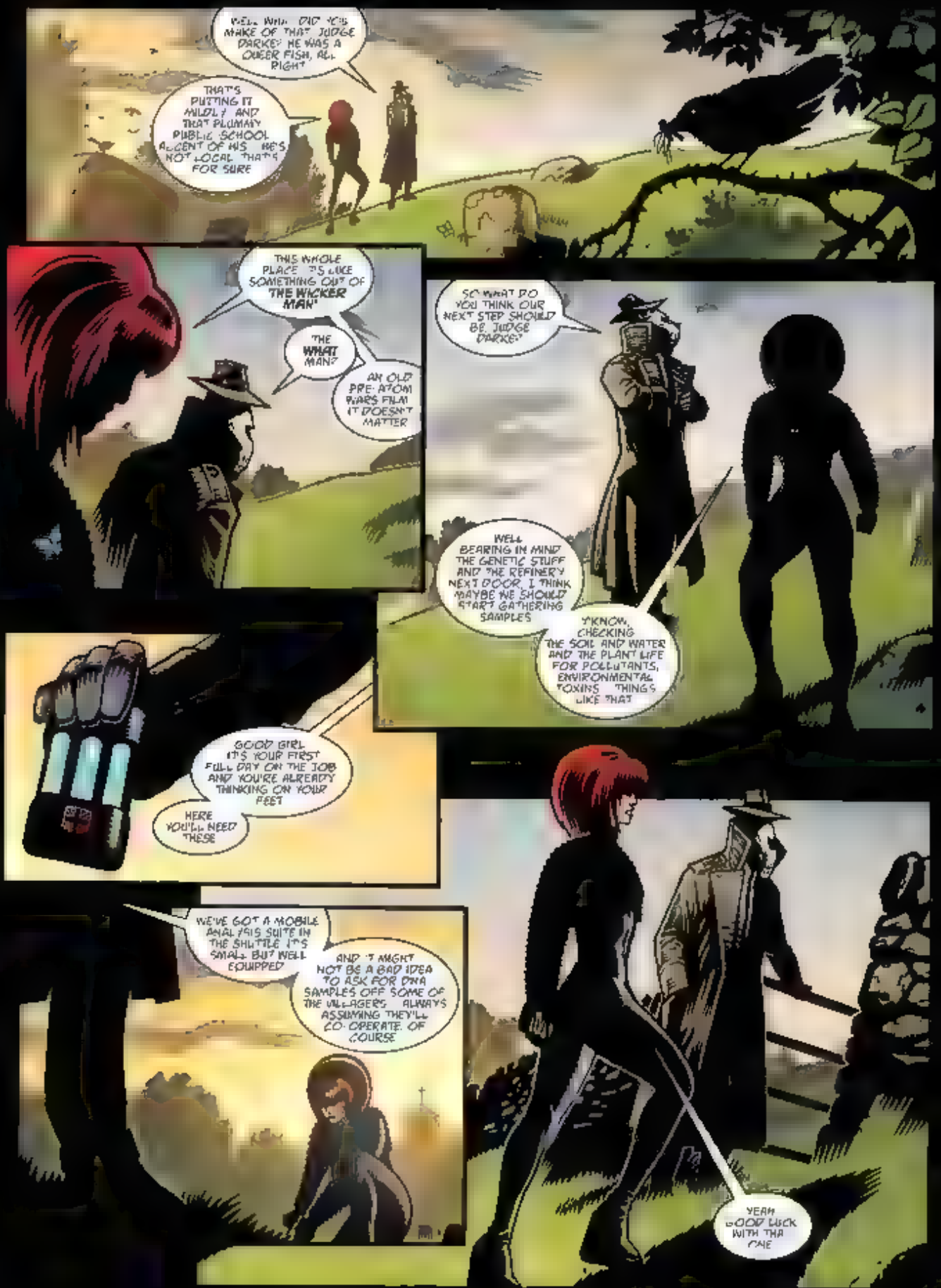

REVERENT DIONY BAYLISS. I'M THE VICAR OF THIS HARMING LITTLE PLACE
I HEARD ON THE GRAPEVINE WE HAD VISITORS FROM THE BIG CITY BUT I HADN'T EXPECTED ONE QUITE SO LOVELY
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, REVEREND! I'M DETECTIVE INSPECTOR STRANGE AND THIS HERE'S MY ASSISTAN' JUDGE BEKK 'ARKE
RANGE AN' DARKE M' MON DELIGHTFUL! HOW DESPERATELY BROODING AND ROMANTIC YOU SOUND ALREADY
AHH NOW THEREBY HANGS A TALE
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WHY DON'T YOU BOTH POP INSIDE FOR A BITE TO EAT' MRS HUDSON HAS MADE SOME RATHER SPLENDID PETIS FOURS AND I CAN TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT OVER LUNCH
WE'RE HERE ON A CASE WE WERE WONDERING ABOUT THE GRAVES. HOW COME SO MANY OF THE WOMEN DIED IN CHILDBIRTH
IT'S A TERRIBLE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY

THAT'S SOME ALTAR YOU'VE GOT THERE REVEREND
OH, YOU'RE ADMIRING OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL DISPLAY I SEE
YES, TIS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHURCH YEAR HERE IN LLANDRIS OUR LITTLE PARISH IS QUITE DEVOUT IN ITS OWN WAY
ALL VILLAGERS DONATE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FROM THE ALLOTMENTS AND EVERY HARVEST MOON THE REDOUBTABLE MRS HUDSON BAKES A BARA BRITH JOHN BARLEYCORN
IT'S USUALLY THE TALKING POINT OF THE CALENDAR THANKS LARGELY TO MRS HUDSON'S BAKING PROWESS
WELL NOW AND HERE'S ME WONDERING WHY MY EARS WERE BURNING
AH, MRS HUDSON! SPEAK OF THE DEVIL
AS I WERE

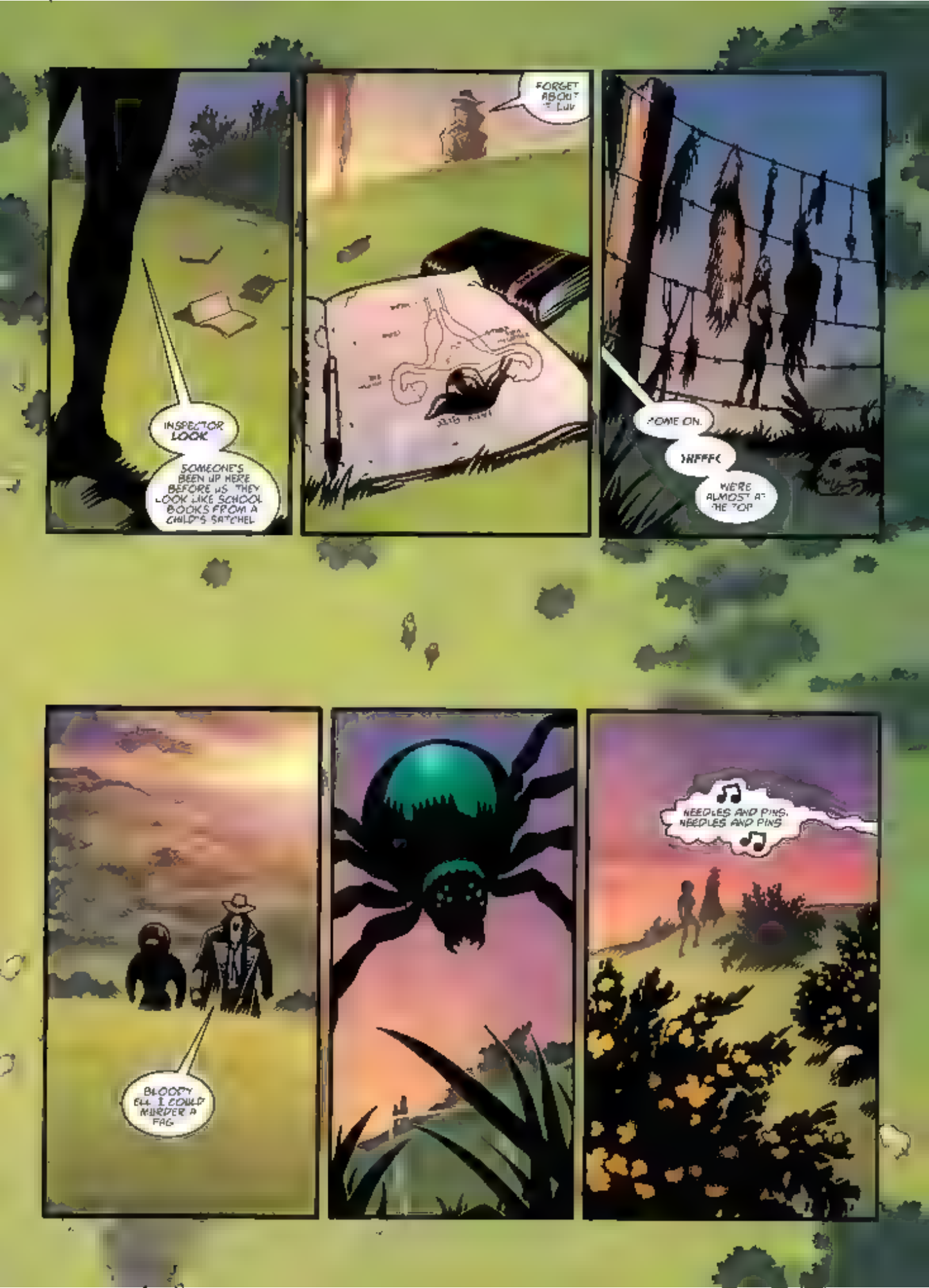
INSPECTOR STRANGE, JUDGE DARKE — MRS HUDSON IS MY HOUSEKEEPER WHEN SHE ISN'T BUSY ON HER ROUNDS AS THE VILLAGE MIDWIFE
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, DEAR. YOU LOOK A LOT THINNER THAN YOU DO ON THE TELLY
SO WE BEEN TOLD
I WAS JUST TELLING THE INSPECTOR ABOUT YOUR LEGENDARY BAKING SKILLS, MRS HUDSON
SPEAKING OF WHICH, MIGHT YOU HAVE TIME TO RUSTLE UP A SPOT OF TEA FOR OUR GUESTS? WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A CHAT ABOUT THE POOR MITES' GRAVES OUTSIDE
YOU'LL BE THERE ON OUR ACCOUNT REVEREND. WE'VE COME HERE LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, NOT AFTERNOON TEA.
SO WHY NOT ASK MRS HUDSON, SIR? I MEAN SINCE SHE'S THE MIDWIFE AND EVERYTHING
NOT I AM, LOVE. FORTY SIX YEARS IT'LL BE, COME OCTOBER. I'VE HELPED WITH MOST OF THE BIRTHS HEREABOUTS
SO YOU'LL KNOW ABOUT THE GRAVES OUTSIDE? THE KIDS WHO DIED IN CHILDBIRTH
OH. THAT WAS A HORRIBLE BUSINESS. THAT WAS A TOXIC SPILL THEY SAID FROM ONE OF THE OIL REFINERIES IN MILFORD HAVEN
EXAMINER HE WATER DIDN'T IT. THE ADULTS AND CHILDREN NONE OF THEM WERE AFFECTED BUT THE PREGNANT MOTHERS NOW
THIS IS BEFORE I WAS SENT TO ANNISTER HERE SAUL BUT BY ALL ACCOUNTS IT WAS A WRETCHED TIME FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

THE POPULATION SEEMS TO HAVE RECOVERED ALL RIGHT NOW, THOUGH. I SAW A SHEDLOAD OF KIDS THIS MORNING
MOST OF THEM REDHEADS, TOO I NOTICED PROBABLY NOT MUCH GENETIC DIVERSITY HERE
THEY'RE PODDLING IN THE SHALLOW END OF THE GENE POOL
PARDON ME DID YOU SAY SOMETHING MISS PARKE?
WHAT? NO I WAS JUST THINKING ALOUD SORRY
NICE PLACE IT'S PRETTY OLD WHEN WAS IT BUILT?
SOMETIME IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY I BELIEVE, THOUGH RUMOUR HAS IT IT WAS BUILT ON A MUCH EARLIER SITE OF PAGAN WORSHIP
THAT'D EXPLAIN THE NAME, WOULDN'T IT? 'ST BAPHOMET'S'?
IF YOU KNOW THE DERIVATION OF THAT NAME GOES SO FAR BACK INTO ANTIQUITY THAT IT'S LOST TO US NOW
IT DOES HAVE A RATHER GHOULISH GRAND GUIGNOL AIR ABOUT IT DOESN'T IT
AND TELL ME, REVEREND OVER THE YEARS, HAVE YOU HEARD OF ANY UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS AROUND THESE PARTS?
SIGHTINGS? WHAT OF? I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU MEAN NOT SPRITES AND FAIRIES, SURELY NOT THE TYLWYTH TEG?
OH, HOW THRILLING! IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE INSPECTOR IS OUR LITTLE COMMUNITY GOING TO BE ON YOUR TV SHOW?
RATINGS HAVEN'T SLIPPED THAT BADLY YET

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME REVEREND BUT WE'D BETTER BE ON OUR WAY THIS CASE WON'T INVESTIGATE ITSELF
OH, DON'T MENTION IT INSPECTOR I'M ONLY TOO HAPPY I COULD HELP
BY THE WAY IF YOU'RE VENTURING OUT ON THE HILLS, I SHOULD PROBABLY GIVE YOU A WORD OF WARNING
OH YES
TREAD SOFTLY INSPECTOR BE WARY OF WHERE YOU STEP
THERE'S A MAZE OF TUNNELS AND CAVES AND OLD MINEWORKS UP THERE THE LEGENDS DON'T CALL THEM THE 'HOLLOW HILLS' FOR NOTHING
I'LL BEAR IT IN MIND
AND CAREFUL OF THE CLIFFS MIND WE DON'T WANT TO BE CALLING THE COASTGUARD OUT ON YOU, NOW DO WE


WELL WHO DID YOU MAKE OF THAT JUDGE DARKE? HE WAS A QUEER FISH, ALL RIGHT
THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY AND THAT PLUMMY PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCENT OF HIS HE'S NOT LOCAL THAT'S FOR SURE
THIS WHOLE PLACE IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF 'THE WICKER MAN'
THE WHAT MAN?
AN OLD PRE-ATOM BARS FILM IT DOESN'T MATTER
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OUR NEXT STEP SHOULD BE, JUDGE DARKE?
WELL BEARING IN MIND THE GENETIC STUFF AND THE REFINERY NEXT DOOR, I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD START GATHERING SAMPLES
Y'KNOW, CHECKING THE SOIL AND WATER AND THE PLANT LIFE FOR POLLUTANTS, ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS THINGS LIKE THAT
GOOD GIRL IT'S YOUR FIRST FULL DAY ON THE JOB AND YOU'RE ALREADY THINKING ON YOUR FEET
HERE YOU'LL NEED THESE
WE'VE GOT A MOBILE ANALYSIS SUITE IN THE SHUTTLE IT'S SMALL BUT WELL EQUIPPED
AND IT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA TO ASK FOR DNA SAMPLES OFF SOME OF THE VILLAGERS ALWAYS ASSUMING THEY'LL CO-OPERATE, OF COURSE
YEAH GOOD LUCK WITH THA ONE

THE 'HOLLOW HALLS' EH?
LET'S HAVE A SHUFTI AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND SHALL WE
FUNNY BLOOD'S ATMOSPHERE. THIS PLACE THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE AIR HERE AND I DON'T JUST MEAN THAT NIP OF AUTUMN
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN
YEAH LIKE WAITING FOR A FUNERAL


INSPECTOR LOOK
SOMEONE'S BEEN UP HERE BEFORE US THEY LOOK LIKE SCHOOL BOOKS FROM A CHILD'S SATCHEL
FORGET ABOUT IT LUV
COME ON.
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE TOP
BLOODY HELL I COULD MURDER A FAG
NEEDLES AND PINS, NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN A MAN MARRIES HIS TROUBLE BEGINS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE, LASS? GOT YOURSELF LOST HAVE YOU.
WHY'S THE CRIB EMPTY
IT'S HEARD HARVEST EVE, SILLY I HAD TO GIVE THE BABY TO THE BILLY-GOAT MAN
WHAT THE HELL
BAAAAA

CHRIST ON A BIKE
THEY'RE COMING STRAIGHT AT US
BAAAA
BAAAAA
BAA
BAAAA
BAAA
BAAA
WHAT THE HELL'S GOT INTO THEM
SOMETHING'S SPOOKED 'EM BIG TIME
SHIT! THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

GET DOWN THE PAIR OF YOU
PUT YOUR ARMS OVER YOUR HEAD AND STAY FACE DOWN ALL RIGHT
BAAAA
BAAAAA
BAAAA
BAAAA
BAAAA
BAAAAA
BAAAAA
BAAA

I CAN SAY I BLAME THEM EITHER LYNN THE WAY THOSE KIDS ACT THE GOAT I SWEAR SOME OF THEM MUSTVE BEEN DRAGGED UP
BUT DONT MIND ME CHATTERING AWAY NOW ARE YOU ALL READY FOR THE HARVEST FESTIVAL TONIGHT?
I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD
OH ME NEITHER LOVE LET THE MEN HAVE THEIR DRINKS AND THEIR DARTS, I SAY
WHAT WITH EMLYN'S LUMBAGO, THIS THE ONE DAY OF THE YEAR I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A GOOD PROPER
Jingl a-ling a-ling
SORRY TO BURST IN LIKE THIS LADIES, BUT I'VE GOT A BIT OF BOTHER ON ME HANDS
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND A DOCTOR

OH DEAR LORD IT'S CERYS LOOK - GWENFIN'S YOUNGEST
WHAT IN EAR - HAPPENED TO HER POOR LAMB LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BEEN IN THE WARS
PUT HER DOWN ON THE COUNTER INSPECTOR THERE'S A LOVELY
SHE'LL BE FINE SHE'S JUST GOT A BIT OF A NASTY HEAD WOUND THAT I THINK MIGHT NEED LOOKING AT
SHE AUGHT AT THAT SHE'S BLEEDING ALL OVER THE LEMON BONBONS
DO YOU KNOW HER?
COURSE I KNOW HER IT'S CERYS PRICE HER MOTHER'S THE LANDLADY AT THE PUB WHERE YOU'RE STAYING
IT'S A SMALL VILLAGE WORD GETS ROUND
THERE'S OLD DOCTOR SEWELL DOWN THE WAY BUT HE WON'T BE OUT OF HIS PIT TILL AFTERNOON HE LIKES A TIPPLE IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT
SO DO YOU HAVE A DOCTOR HERE OR WHAT?
I CAN CALL YOU A HOVER TAXI, THOUGH GET THEM TO TAKE YOU UP TO THE MED-CENTRE AT THE REFINERY
GOOD IDEA GET THEM TO RUN A FULL CHECK-UP ON HER JUDGE DARKE YOU COULD PROBABLY DO WITH ONE YOURSELF TOO
ME, I'M HEADING BACK TO THE SHUTTLE TO ANALYSE THESE SAMPLES IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT THAT BLOODY REFINERY MIGHT BE WHERE THIS ALL STARTED

SHE ARGUED OF COURSE BUT IN THE END SHE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RELENT TO HER SUPERIOR OFFICER
HE WATCHES THE CRANKY OLD HOVER CAB HEAD OFF ON ITS MISSION OF MERCY AND BUTTONS HIS COAT AGAINST THE SUDDEN CHILL
JUDGE STRANGE STRANGE!
WHERE YOU GOING
CAN WE HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MISTER
AND WE'LL SEE YOU IN THE TITHEBARN TONIGHT FOR FREE DRINKS AND FROLICS AS USUAL MISS OLCOTT
WHY I WOULDN'T MISS FOR THE WORLD REVEREND
SOMETHING HAS WRONG HERE
BADLY WRONG
DESPITE THE SINGING AND LAUGHTER — THE ICED BUNS AND MULLED WINE — THE FIDDLES AND PICCOLOS AND CLACKING STICKS -
I WAS LIKE THE MASK HAD SLIPPED AND HE IMAGINED HE COULD GLIMPSE THE SKULL UNDERNEATH
HE WAS RIGHT TO SEND BEKKY AWAY HE KNEW THAT THE INSTANT HE'D HEARD THAT MUSIC UP ON THE HOLLOW HILLS
SHE'D BE IN SAFE HANDS UP AT THE REFINERY ANYWHERE WAS SAFER THAN HERE

ROGER THAT MR BRITE CARS HAS RECEIVED YOUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REQUEST AND YOU ARE CLEAR FOR LANDING
PLEASE MAKE FOR BAY ON THE WEST SIDE THERE'S A FRANCOIS TEAM ON DUTY
SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT HERE, LOVE? THIS 'S NOT A PLACE I'D LIKE TO BE STAYING OF A NIGHT
I'LL BE FINE THANKS FOR THE RIDE GO BACK AND ENJOY THE FESTIVAL
HA HA HA
OH THERE'LL BE NO WORRY OF THAT TONIGHT MISS HARVEST FESTIVAL S LADIES' NIGHT MAKE NO MISTAKE OF THAT
WELL WE KNEW THEY WERE IN THE VILLAGE IT WAS ONLY EVER A MATTER OF TIME
THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED BRIT-CIT JUDGES SNOOPING AROUND
THEY'RE COMING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR — NOT UNDER THE RADAR PROFESSOR GILLIGAN LET'S SEE WHAT THEY WANT BEFORE WE HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.
TERMINAL CHALL INF

TEST RESULTS POSITIVE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS
CONTAMINANTS INCLUDE BENZENE MERCURY PHTHALATES CRYPTOSTEROIDS ALPHA REDUCTASE INHIBITOR
WELL TOMMY BEVAN'S KID HE'S A REAL SPOILT BRAT HIM TO HEAR HIM TALK YOU'D THINK HE WAS ONE OF THE GOLDEN LADS BUT WE ALL KNOW HE'S
HUSH YOUR GABBLING NOW SON
GWENITH. YOU SEE THE MUSIC'S GOT INTO HER
PRIMARY INFERTILITY DUE TO ANOVULATION AND ARTIFICIAL INDUCTION ANTICIPATED
BUGGER ME
THEY'RE FIRING BLANKS ALL OF 'EM. THE WHOLE BLOODY LOT OF 'EM'S FIRING BLANKS

A CALLING A SUMMONING A BECKONING FINGER TO TICKLE YOUR FANCY
A YEARNING 'N MIND AND
THE FLUTTER OF PAN PIPES A TICKER-TAPE PARADE OF RILLS AND SWEET AIRS
HEADING HOME IN THE HOLLOW HILLS
HOME FOR THE HARLES
OH NO!
NOT ON MY SOPPIN WATCH YOU DON'T!

BEKKY
LISTEN, I'VE NAILED IT! IT'S POLLUTANTS FROM THE REFINERY. THEY'RE STERILE! EVERY BLOODY MALE IN THE VILLAGE IS FIRING BLANKS
>HUFF<
>HUFF<
YOU HAVE A SHUFTI ROUND UP THERE LUV. SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT. CALL ME WHEN YOU GET THIS MESSAGE. ALL RIGHT?
HEY MISTER! GET YOURSELF INSIDE.
IT'S WOMEN'S BUSINESS TONIGHT. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE GOING UP THERE.
OH, BLOODY WELL DON'T!

WE'VE DONE THE SUPERFICIAL INJURIES REALLY — LACERATIONS A COUPLE OF CRACKED RIBS NOTHING MAJOR
WE HAVE A STATE OF THE ART INFIRMARY HERE WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER JUDGE DARKE DON'T WORRY
I'M NOT
EXCUSE ME BUT I REALLY NEED TO GRAB THIS VOICEMAIL
GET ROHMER ON THE CASE NOW I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS IS ALL GOING TO TURN TO SHIT
SNIFFF
YOU HAVE A SHUFTA ROUND UP THERE UM SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT CALL ME BACK YOU GET THIS MESSAGE ALL RIGHT
SNUFF SNUFF
WITH THE RAKED UP TITS POLLUTION'S FROM THE REFINERY THEY'RE STRIKE! EVERY BLOODY MALE IN THE VILLAGE IS FIRING BLANKS
RIGHT THEN
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, SHALL WE?

BUGGER ME WITH A BROOM STICK
BAPHOMET
BAPHOMET!
LORD OF THE WILD
BESTOW US YOUR SEED!
BLESS US WITH CHILD.

RUST ON RUSS
S NOT JUST THE ONE! THERE'S A WHOLE BLEEDIN' COLONY OF 'EM!

THANK YOU
LORD
MY SWEET SWEET LORD
THANK YOU
WOW! A MANATEE... ARE THEY... ARE THEY ALL MALE?
CAMERA, ZOOM IN ON THE CRYPTIDS. GIVE ME A CLOSE UP ON THEIR -
STREWTH! THEY'RE BLOODY WELL MALE ALL RIGHT

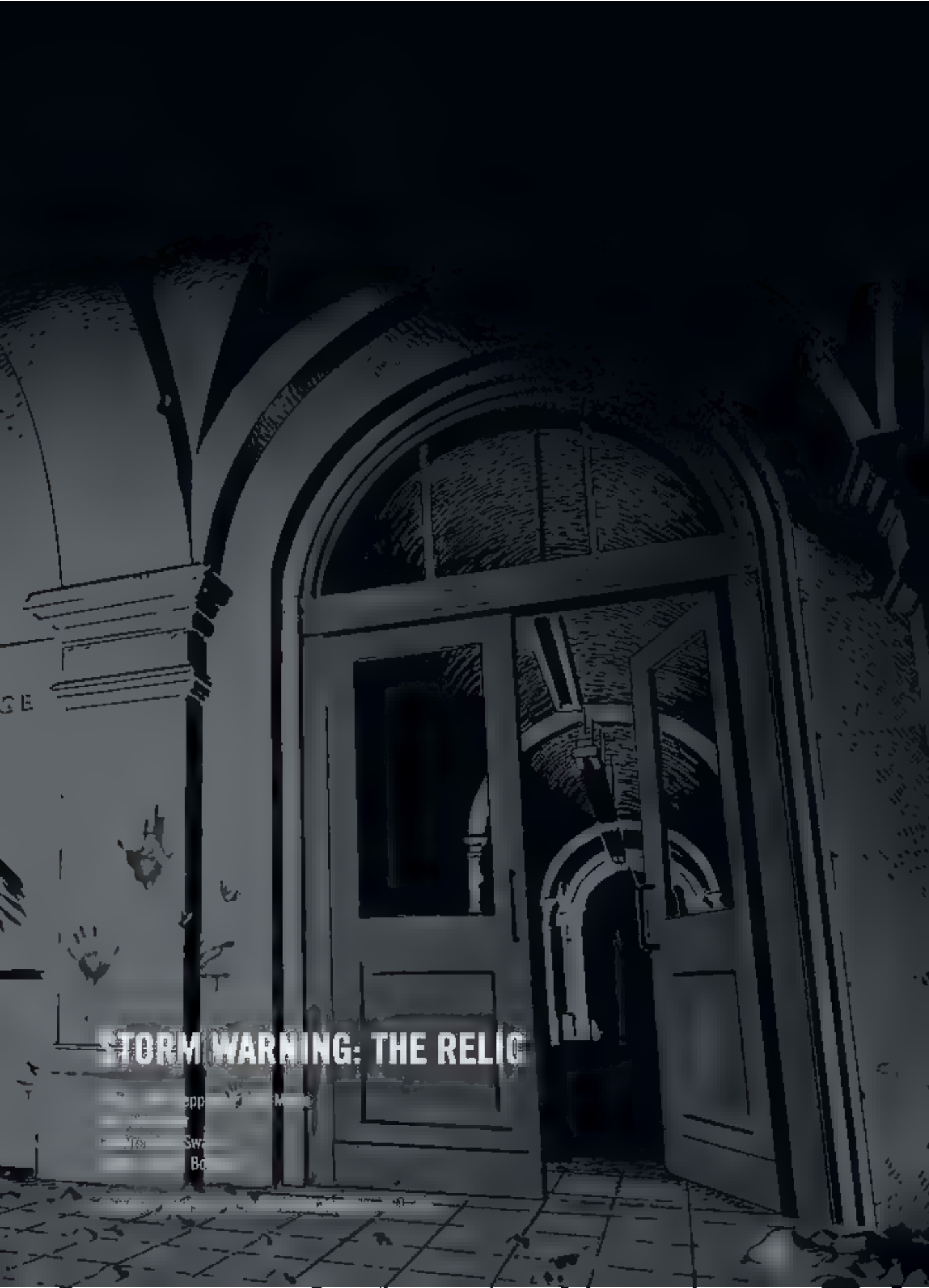
SO JUST FOR THE RECORD THEN
INTERVIEW COMMENCED 11.43 AT THE MILFORD HAVEN REFINERY PSI JUDGE BECKY DARKE ATTENDING
I'M IN THE PRESENCE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HUWELL MCCLUSKY AND HEAD OF PETRO CHEMICAL RESEARCH PROFESSOR BRYAN GILLIGAN
JUST WHAT IS THIS ABOUT JUDGE DARKE? I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION WE'D BEEN NOTHING IF NOT HELPFUL O YOU
WELL NOW YOU SEE THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN GOING WRONG MR MCCLUSKY
BECAUSE I'M HERE TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SHUT THIS CESSPIT DOWN.
LOOK OKAY WE'VE HAD A FEW MINOR SPILLS RECENTLY BUT WE HAVE STRINGENT ANTI-POLLUTION CHECKS EVERY
BULLSHIT THIS PLACE HASN'T HAD PROPER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN YEARS
...I SHOULD HOPE SO. WE'RE PAYING THEM ENOUGH TO TURN A BLIND EYE...
AHH. AND THERE WE HAVE IT
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
TELEPATHIC LEAKAGE, MR MCCLUSKY I DID TELL YOU I WAS A PSI-JUDGE DIDN'T I? YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T THINK SO LOUD
PUT ON THE CUFFS
OR DON'T
I ONLY GOT THIS LASER BECAUSE IT MATCHES MY OUTFIT BUT I'VE BEEN ITCHING TO USE IT ALL WEEK

EY, WHAT ARE THEY DOING WITH THOSE KIDS
CAMERA — TRY TO ANGLE IN ON THE BARN I THINK THEY'RE HANDING OVER THE BLEEDIN' NIPPERS
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR ME WON'T YOU, MY LITTLE LAMB? HE'LL COME TO NO HARM!?
WHAT THE BUGGERY IS IT NOW?
APPROACHING STAGING AREA:
GET READY TO BAIL

WHAT THE BLAZIN' HELL ARE THEY UP TO
REMEMBER THE DRILL! COVER ALL EXITS!
THESE THINGS AREN'T EVEN HUMAN!
TARGET THE LEADER AND TAKE HIM DOWN!
NO!
BANG!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU IDIOTS DOING. STAND DOWN NOW!
SORRY DETECTIVE INSPECTOR STRANGE BUT WE HAVE DIRECT ORDERS FROM SENIOR JUDGE ROHMER TO —
I DON'T GIVE A MONKEY'S WHAT SENIOR JUDGE ROHMER TOLD YOU. SONNY THIS ISN'T BRIT-CIT YOU'RE ON MY PATCH NOW AND WHAT I SAY GOES
AS HEAD OF THE E.S.S. I'M DECLARING THIS WHOLE AREA A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
WE HAVE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES BREEDING HERE AND YOU CHUMPS AREN'T GOING ANY WHERE NEAR IT
I'M STRANGE I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU. IF I CAN
SO ERM . . . HELLO THERE THIS IS
WELL THIS IS QUITE AN HONOUR MEETING YOU LIKE THIS I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT WHAT JUST HAPPENED IT WAS NONE OF MY DOING
NOW BACK OFF I'VE GOT SOME PROPER POLICE WORK LINED UP FOR YOU SHOWER OF TOKERS

PEMBROKE DOCKPORT
CRACKING WORK, JUDGE DARKE
I KNOW BRIT CITY'S A LAUGHING STOCK WHEN IT COMES TO BENT JUDGES, BUT THIS WHOLE SORRY MESS TAKES THE BISCUIT
BACK HANDERS + CORRUPTION — GREED AND CORPORATE EXPLOITATION. AND ON TOP OF THAT A VIABLE BREEDING COLONY OF SATYRS
CONSIDERING IT'S YOUR FIRST CASE BEKKY, LUV, YOU'VE PLAYED A BLINDER YOU'RE GOING TO FIT RIGHT IN HERE
...AND YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD ON THE EYES EITHER...
YES, I KNOW I'M WATCHING YOU NOW
I'M QUITE AWARE OF YOUR ANTIPATHY TOWARDS MS DARKE JUDGE ROHMER BUT EVERY THING'S GOING EXACTLY AS EXPECTED
JUST KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND YOUR HAM-FISTS OUT OF IT I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT AT MY END
JUST REMEMBER WHO THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT IS, ROHMER
INSPECTOR STRANGE ISN'T THE ONLY PERSON WHO'S LOOKED INTO THE BLACK MIRROR AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE


STORM WARNING: THE RELIC

BZII-CIT, 2117 AD:
ST EMILIAN'S ORPHANAGE
EST. 2020
"I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.."
"I THOUGHT YOU PSI-JUDGES WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO GET SPOOKED!"
"WHAT KIND OF FEELING, SHIEL?"
"IT'S...IT'S, CAN'T YOU FEEL THAT?"
"SHIEL? SHIEL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?"
WE FEEL IT TOO. IT'S LIKE
A TIGHTENING.
I, I DON'T THINK I CAN GO ON! I FEEL LIKE MY HEAD'S GOING TO— NNGH!
YOU NEED TO GET TO THEM. QUICKLY.

HE'S RIGHT, THEY'RE STILL
ALIVE BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME
YOU HEARD THE CREEPY TWINS.
WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE ALONE, WISEMAN.
HE'S HAVING AN EMPATHIC EPISODE.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF
JUDGE SHIEL
THE BASEMENT... IT'S DEFINITELY THE BASEMENT.
COME ON, CAMPBELL.
WHAT THE...?
THE WHOLE AREA MUST HAVE SHIFTED OUT OF PHASE
THAT TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY
SHIEL'S RIGHT, WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY.
THIS WAY

...SIGNA STELLARUM NIGRARUM.
MAGNUM INNOMINANDUM
NEGOTIUM PERAMBULANS IN TENEBRIS.
I MAKE THIS OFFERING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANCIENT WAYS
FIVE SINLESS. FIVE SERVANTS. FIVE SOULS.

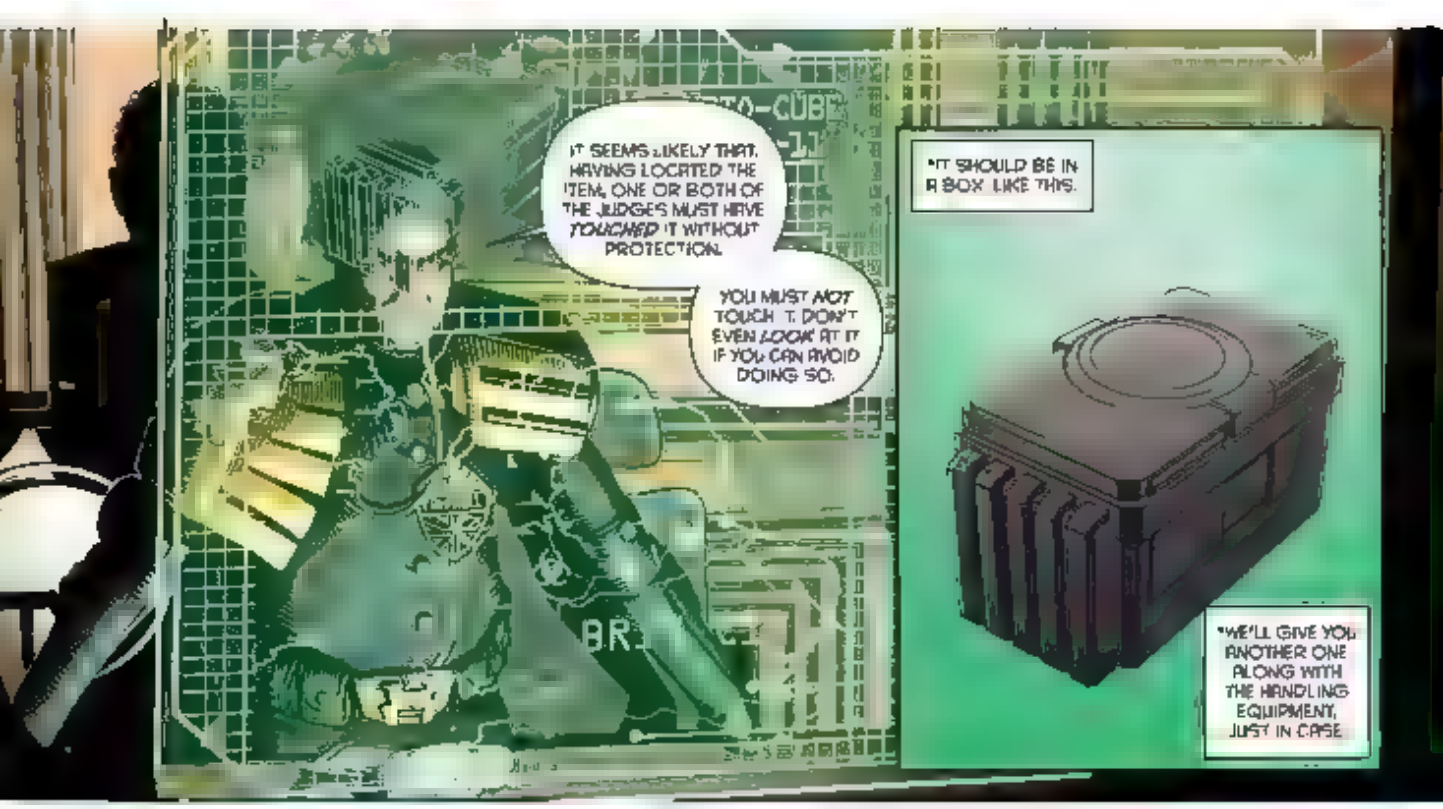
I ASK ONLY FOR THE LIFE FORCE.
DA MIHI VIRTUTEM.
YOU THINK IT'S THAT EASY TO OUTWIT A DEMON?
BARTERING FOR LEFTOVERS INSTEAD OF SERVICE?
YOU DARE TO INTERRUPT ME?
FOOL! LET'S SEE HOW YOUR
I, THE SUMMONER, GRANT PERMISSION FOR TWO TO COME FORTH!

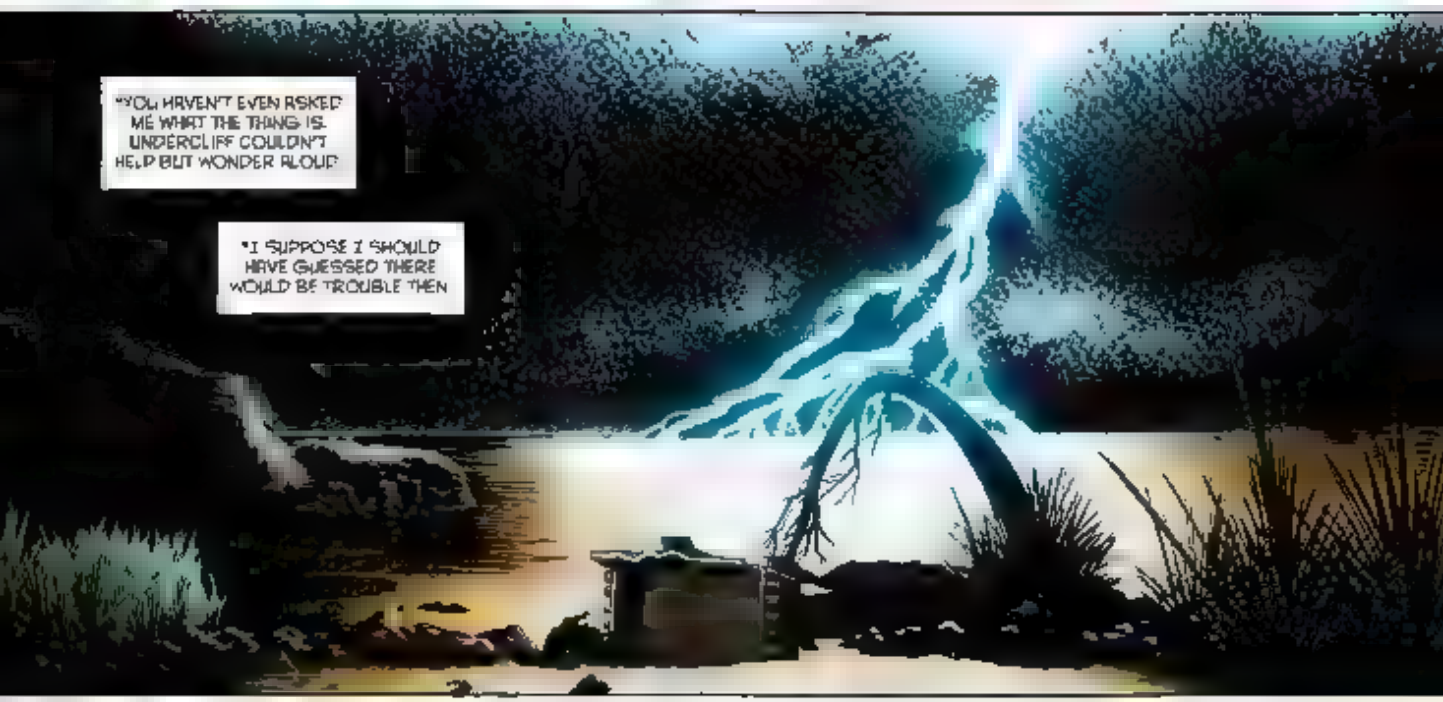
DROKK--!
COME FORTH AND RID US OF THOSE WHO DARE INTRUDE UPON OUR SACRED BUSINESS!
BACK! BACK, I SAY! I, THE--
EXORCIST.
BOOM
BOOM BOOM
EQUIPPED MY LAWGIVER WITH SOME OF PSI-DIV'S EXORCIST ROUNDS. THOUGHT THEY MIGHT COME IN HANDY.
TIME TO LET THE CHILDREN GO, ABNEY. YOU'RE NO LONGER HEADMASTER HERE

WISEMAN, WAIT-
FORMLESS ONES, I SUMMON THEE.
REACH OUT. REACH OUT AS I DO. AND STRIKE THESE FOOLS DOWN.
BDAM
FOOOM
OH NO. NO.
I STOPPED HIM--
YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE KILLED THEM!
UNNHH!
WAIT. SHE'S ALIVE!
SHE'S ALIVE!

BRIT-CIT, 2137 AD.
PSI-DIV HQ.
STORM
SPOOKY BITCH.
NOK NOK
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, SIR?
COME IN, STORM.
CLOSE THE DOOR

-SIGH-
SO I AM INFORMED THAT YOUR LATEST PARTNERSHIP DID NOT PAN OUT.
I THOUGHT WITH REID'S SKILLS BEING PURELY *TELEPLASMIC*, THERE MIGHT NOT BE THE USUAL... *COMPLICATIONS*.
SHE WAS VERY UPSET ABOUT [redacted] MADE A TERRIBLE MESS. LEFT A STAIN ON THE RUG
HOWEVER, I NEED YOUR HELP, PARTNER OR NOT.
TWO OF OUR PSI-JUDGES HAVE GONE MISSING.
MACHEN—A PRECOG· AND *UNDERCLIFF*—A TELEKINETIC. LEFT PSI-DIV UNDER MY ORDERS TWO DAYS AGO.
THEY WERE SENT TO RETRIEVE AN OBJECT. WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM THEM SINCE THEY CONFIRMED THEIR SHUTTLE'S ARRIVAL IN *GULGAMPH*.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A FAIRLY SIMPLE JOB BUT, WE...
AT THIS STAGE IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHETHER I UNDERESTIMATED THE TASK OR OVERESTIMATED MY STAFF.


IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT, HAVING LOCATED THE ITEM, ONE OR BOTH OF THE JUDGES MUST HAVE *TOUCHED* IT WITHOUT PROTECTION.
YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT. DON'T EVEN *LOOK* AT IT IF YOU CAN AVOID DOING SO.
"IT SHOULD BE IN A BOX LIKE THIS.
"WE'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ONE ALONG WITH THE HANDLING EQUIPMENT, JUST IN CASE.


"YOU HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED ME WHAT THE THING IS. UNDERCLIFF COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER ALOUD.
"I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE THEN.

"LILLIAN, I AM RELYING ON YOUR ABILITY TO SHUT THINGS OUT, TO REMAIN OBJECTIVE, TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE HERE.
"YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY GOOD AT THAT. "

GULSHAW NORTH-WEST BRIT-CIT
AH, YOU MUST BE STORM!
YOU MUST BE JUDGE HERBERT.
SO YOU ARE PSYCHIC, THEN!
RHA-HA. NAH, I'M JUST JOKING.
NO OFFENCE. LIKE I SAID THE SAME THING TO THE OTHER FELLAS. HA HA!
WELL, WELCOME TO GULSHAW!
I DON'T DO TOUCHING.
YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR ME?

ONE SUGAR OR TWO?
NONE
SO MUCH TO SEE!
AH, SWEET ENOUGH, EH?
YOU SAID YOU MET WITH UNDERCLIFF AND MACHEN WHEN THEY ARRIVED.
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, IS THAT CORRECT?
*THAT'S RIGHT. SEEMED LIKE NICE CHAPS, TO-
*THEY WERE LOOKING FOR THIS HENDERSON FELLA. WHO'D BEEN STAYING AT THE B AN' B. LIKE
*DISTINCTIVE LOOKIN' HE WAS. HARD TO MISS.
*ALWAYS NEATLY TURNED OUT WITH A SUIT AND TIE, HAT, DARK GLASSES AND THEM BLACK GLOVES.
*BIG HANDS TOO. FOR A LITTLE FELLA.
*THEY FOUND HIM, ANYWAY.
*FOLKS SAW THEM [redacted] OFF INTO THE DUNES A COUPLE OF TIMES IT WAS.
*HAD EQUIPMENT WITH 'EM TOO, APPARENTLY.
*I DIDN'T SPEAK TO THEM AGAIN MESELF.
*FIRST I HEARD OF THEIR LEAVING WAS THE SHUTTLE TAKING OFF LAST NIGHT.
RECKON HENDERSON WENT WITH 'EM.

"YOU REALLY DIDN'T NEED TO COME WITH ME. YOU SAID YOURSELF THE *FOG ALERT* WAS ALL CLEAR."
IS THAT IT ON HENDERSON, THEN? A TOURIST COME TO TAKE THE TOXIC AIR?
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE! GULSHAW HAD A LOT TO OFFER *SNUFF* BACK IN THE DAY.
"IT'S NO BOTHER. ALL PART OF THE SERVICE. GET'S ME OUT OF THE OFFICE."
BUT, NO, WE DON'T GET *MANY* VISITORS, NOW YOU *SNUFF* MENTION IT
SOMEONE'S BEEN DIGGING.
[redacted] MINUTES! *SNUFF* I HAVEN'T GOT THEM *POWERGLOVE* THINGS LIKE YOU.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY? WHAT'S ALL THE FANCY GEAR FOR?
UNDERCLIFF [redacted] *MISSING*. THEIR SHUTTLE NEVER OFFICIALLY LEFT GULSHAW.
THEY WERE *LOOKING* FOR [redacted] WHICH NEEDS TO BE HANDLED CAREFULLY, AND LOCKED UP SECURELY.
WHAT *IS* ALL THIS?

THEY SAY THERE WAS AN *ANCIENT SETTLEMENT* HERE. BEFORE THE *ROMANS*, EVEN.
THIS MUST BE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE TOWN.
MOST OF IT'S BEEN WASHED AWAY A LONG TIME BACK NOW. I'M SURPRISED THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT.
ANY LOCAL FOLKLORE ABOUT THE RUINS? HEADLESS MONKS? BLACK DOGS?
NO NEED. THE QUICKSAND AND DEADLY FOG ARE ENOUGH TO KEEP
WHAT WAS IT THEY WERE AFTER? MACHEN AND UNDERCLIFF. I MEAN.
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND IT.

*OR MAYBE IT FOUND *THEM.*
BLOODY HELLFIRE!
STEADY THERE, HERBERT.
GET A GRIP.
JUDGE UNDERCLIFF!
WE NEED TO PULL HIM UP.

UGH. HE'S BEEN IN THERE A GOOD FEW HOURS, ALL RIGHT.
REMIND ME NOT TO GO PADDLING WHILE I'M HERE.
<SIGH> HE'S NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY.
WHO ISN'T?
SHH! I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE
GIVE ME A MOMENT. DON'T SPEAK
IS ANYONE HERE?
BUT THERE IS ONE?

WELL, WHICH ONE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T TELL?
ASK, THEN!
UNDERCLIFF AND MACHEN.
I DON'T KNOW. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WHO RIZE—
I SAID, DON'T SPEAK.
SHOUT, THEN!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
YOU'D BETTER LET ME SEE.

THE SKULL... THE SKULL...
MY SKULL. MINE!
MACHEN. IT'S JUDGE STORM.
STORM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
CAMPBELL SENT ME.
WHERE IS THE ARTEFACT YOU CAME HERE FOR?

I SAW IT! ROHMER WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN KNOWN IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME!
I SHOULD HAVE KEPT IT TO MYSELF! NEVER TOLD CAMPBELL.
NOW HE WANTS IT! THEY WANT IT! EVERYONE WANTS IT!
YOU WANT IT! I KNOW YOU DO!
MACHEN, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN.
LISTEN TO ME.
YOUR EYES... R-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I NEED TO KNOW. I CAN HELP.
YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!
IT'S MINE!

THE ARTEFACT. WHERE IS IT?
YOU'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN...
NO, LISTEN TO ME! CALM DOWN!
YOU'RE GETTING LOST, MACHEN.
YOU'RE GETTING STUCK ON ONE THING. DON'T LET THE RINGER CONSUME YOU.
YOU'RE TALKING TO HIM? THE DEAD...?
CAN YOU SEE HIM?
MACHEN, STOP!
IF YOU DON'T STOP NOW YOU'LL GO HRUNTER.

YOU WANT IT!
YOURSELF!
I SAW YOU!
ARE THERE OTHERS?
I SAW THE FUTURE!
YOU'RE USING UP EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT LEFT, MACHEN. BURNING THROUGH PSYCHIC ENERGY.
FOCUS! WHAT ABOUT HENDERSON? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
THAT WAS MY GIFT--MY JOB--TO BE ABLE TO SEE..
YOU KNEW ABOUT THE ARTEFACT BEFORE YOU GOT TO GULSHAW?
UNDERCLIFF WANTED IT, BUT I FIXED HIM!
THINK, MACHEN-- DID YOU SEE HENDERSON?
WAS HE HERE ALREADY?
WHO IS HE?
UNDERCLIFF CHEATED! HE USED HIS TELEKINESIS! LIFTED THE STONES TO BATTER AND CRUSH MY... MY SKULL

MY SKULL.
MINE!
MINE
STORM, R-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE'S GONE.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SEE HERE
I'LL HAIL THE AUTO-TRANSPORTER.
YOU CAN HELP ME LOAD THE BODIES.

PSI-DIV HQ, BRITAIN
I'LL HAVE THEM CHECKED AGAIN TO MAKE IT OFFICIAL OF COURSE, BUT I WOULD SAY YOU'RE RIGHT.
BURNED THEMSELVES RIGHT OUT. THE PAIR OF THEM. NOT A DROP OF PSYCHIC RESIDUE REMAINING.
YOU'RE SURE MACHEN DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING ON WHERE THE THING MIGHT HAVE GONE?
HE WAS TOO FAR GONE. FIXATED CONVINCED THAT EVERYONE WANTED TO TAKE IT FROM HIM.
HE MENTIONED A NAME ROHMER.
AH. I SUPPOSE I HAD BETTER

IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THIS "HENDERSON" WHO HERBERT DESCRIBED TO YOU IS IN FACT A MAN NAMED BURROUGHS.
HE'S EX-MILITARY—SPECIAL FORCES—AND I WAS WARNED HE MIGHT BE INVOLVED
BY MACHEN?
NO, BY SENIOR JUDGE ROHMER
(LAST KNOWN)
(FILE)
MACHEN
UNDERCLIFF
MACHEN HAD A VISION—AN INCREDIBLY STRONG IMPRESSION OF AN OBJECT AND OF ITS LOCATION.
I ONLY FOUND OUT BECAUSE HE SEARCHED THE DATABASE FOR ANY RECORDS OF THE THING AND TRIGGERED A HIGH-LEVEL SECURITY ALERT.
ROHMER CONTACTED ME IMMEDIATELY
HE WAS CONCERNED THE SEARCH WOULD HAVE ALSO BEEN DETECTED BY BURROUGHS, WHO HE FELT SURE WOULD HAVE SET UP AN ALERT OF HIS OWN.
COMPUTERS, ELECTRONICS AND ROBOTICS WERE HIS AREAS OF EXPERTISE IN THE MILITARY, APPARENTLY.
ROHMER WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD US HOW THE THING SHOULD BE HANDLED: NOT TO BE TOUCHED OR EVEN LOOKED AT, IF POSSIBLE

SO BURROUGHS BEAT MACHEN AND UNDERCLIFF TO GULSHAW BASED ON SEARCH TERMS?
BUT IF YOU WARNED THEM ABOUT HIM, WHY DID THEY END UP WORKING *WITH* HIM?
I DON'T KNOW.
ROHMER DIDN'T SAY THAT BURROUGHS WAS DANGEROUS *SPECIFICALLY*, ONLY THAT HE WOULD BE AFTER THE OBJECT.
CASE REPORT
MACHEN
UNDERCLIFF
AND THAT ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD HE BE ALLOWED TO GET HIS HANDS ON IT
CLEARLY HE WAS RIGHT
THE AUTO-TRANSPORTER WAS AT FORTY-FIVE PER CENT CHARGE THE LAST TIME IT WAS CHECKED
FORTY-FIVE PER CENT WOULD GET HIM *THIS* FAR FROM GULSHAW. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHICH DIRECTION?
IF BURROUGHS HAS THE SKILLS YOU SAY, THAT CIRCLE COULD BE TWICE THAT SIZE--
SIR, SORRY TO INTERRUPT. BUT THERE'S BEEN AN INCIDENT.
IT'S *HOBB'S LANE.*

HOBB'S LANE BC7
WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR, ANYWAY? CAN'T THEY STUMM GAS THEM, OR RIOT FORM OR SOMETHING?
THEN WE COULD ALL GO.
YES, STUDIO/ HEARING YOU LOUD AND CLEAR TOO/ WE ARE READY TO GO LIVE IN FIVE

HI, I'M APRIL KEENING, HERE FOR BCBC IN HOBB'S LANE, THE MOST WATCHED BUILDING SINCE THE JUNE BROWN BLOCK RIOT LAST SUMMER.
LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT CONDITIONS INSIDE THE BLOCK, BUT IT'S NOT AN INVITING SPACE...
AS MANY AS TWO THOUSAND CITIZENS ARE BELIEVED TO INHABIT IT, ALTHOUGH THE EXACT FIGURE MAY BE HIGHER.
HOBB'S LANE, OF COURSE, BEING AN AREA ASSOCIATED WITH CIVIL UNREST, THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WILL COME AS NO GREAT SURPRISE TO SOME.
COUNCILLOR FRAGGLE MIRAGE MADE A STATEMENT TODAY--"HOBB'S LANE IS A HOTBED OF SOV-BLOK MUTIE UNREST. IF WE WANT TO MAKE IT SAFE, THE MUTIE SCUM MUST GO!"
NOBODY HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER SOV-BLOK CITIZENS, OR INDEED ILLEGAL MUTANTS, ACTUALLY RESIDE IN HOBB'S LANE

WHATEVER THEIR NATIONALITY, THE DENIZENS OF HOBB'S LANE WERE RUDELY AWAKENED IN THE WEE HOURS OF THIS MORNING.
THERE WERE REPORTS OF AN ATTACK, WHICH SEVERAL FACTIONS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR WITHIN THE HOUR, ALL OF WHICH WERE LATER FOUND TO BE FALSE.
SOME CITIZENS TALKING ON THEIR HOLO-PADS SUGGESTED IT WAS AN INCURSION BY AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL FORCE, BUT THAT HAS YET TO BE CONFIRMED.
WHATEVER IT WAS, THE PEOPLE OF HOBB'S LANE WILL NEVER—
WAIT! WE HAVE FOOTAGE INCOMING FROM AN EYEWITNESS.
THERE... I THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT OUT, SOME KIND OF SHIP, ATTACKING THE BLOCK.
NO, MY LIGHTING TEAM CORRECTS ME, IT'S NOT A SHIP...
THE SHAPE, IT'S CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE. IT'S AN AUTO-TRANSPORTER.

KOBBS LANE, BRIT-CITY
IF I MIGHT REFRESH YOUR MEMORIES, LADIES AND GENTS, A HIJACKED PSI-DIV AUTO-TRANSPORTER HAS CRASHED INTO A *LOVELY* RESIDENTIAL BLOCK KNOWN LOCALLY AS *"THE PITS"*.
THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS *TWO THOUSAND CITIZENS* INSIDE, WHO APPEAR TO BE SUFFERING FROM SOME *PSYCHOSIS*, RENDERING THEM HOSTILE AND POTENTIALLY BLOODY DANGEROUS.
FROM WHAT WE CAN TELL THE RESIDENTS LOOK TO BE CONCENTRATED ON THE GROUND FLOORS AT PRESENT.
OUR JOB IS TO ESCORT *STORM* HERE INTO THE BUILDING AND LOCATE THE MISSING AUTO-TRANSPORT UNIT
SHE'S A SPOOK JUDGE, THEN?
'COURSE SHE IS, AND WE'RE HERE TO CLEAN UP PSI-DIV'S MESS
YOU LUCKY PEOPLE ARE HERE BECAUSE SENIOR JUDGE ROHMER REQUESTED THAT *I* PUT A TEAM TOGETHER TO GET TO THAT SHUTTLE
WHETHER STORM INTENDS TO TURN INTO A WEREWOLF, HOLD A SÉANCE, OR THROW A BLOODY BIRTHDAY PARTY ONCE WE ARRIVE IS *OFFICIALLY* NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.

RIGHTY HO, THEN.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE AUTO-TRANSPORTER MADE A BIT OF A DENT.
ELECTRICITY'S OFF IT'S GOING TO BE DARK IN THERE
STORM, DO YOU HAVE ANY *SPECIAL FEELINGS* ABOUT WHAT FLOOR WE MIGHT BE HEADING TO?
IF THE RESIDENTS ARE DOWN NEAR THE GROUND FLOOR THEN SO IS THE SHUTTLE
PROKKING BRILLIANT
OKAY, CONTROL, CAN YOU READ ME?
GOOD. ALL HELMET-CAMS ONLINE?
LOVELY STUFF
OKAY, THEN. LET'S DROP IN, SHALL WE?

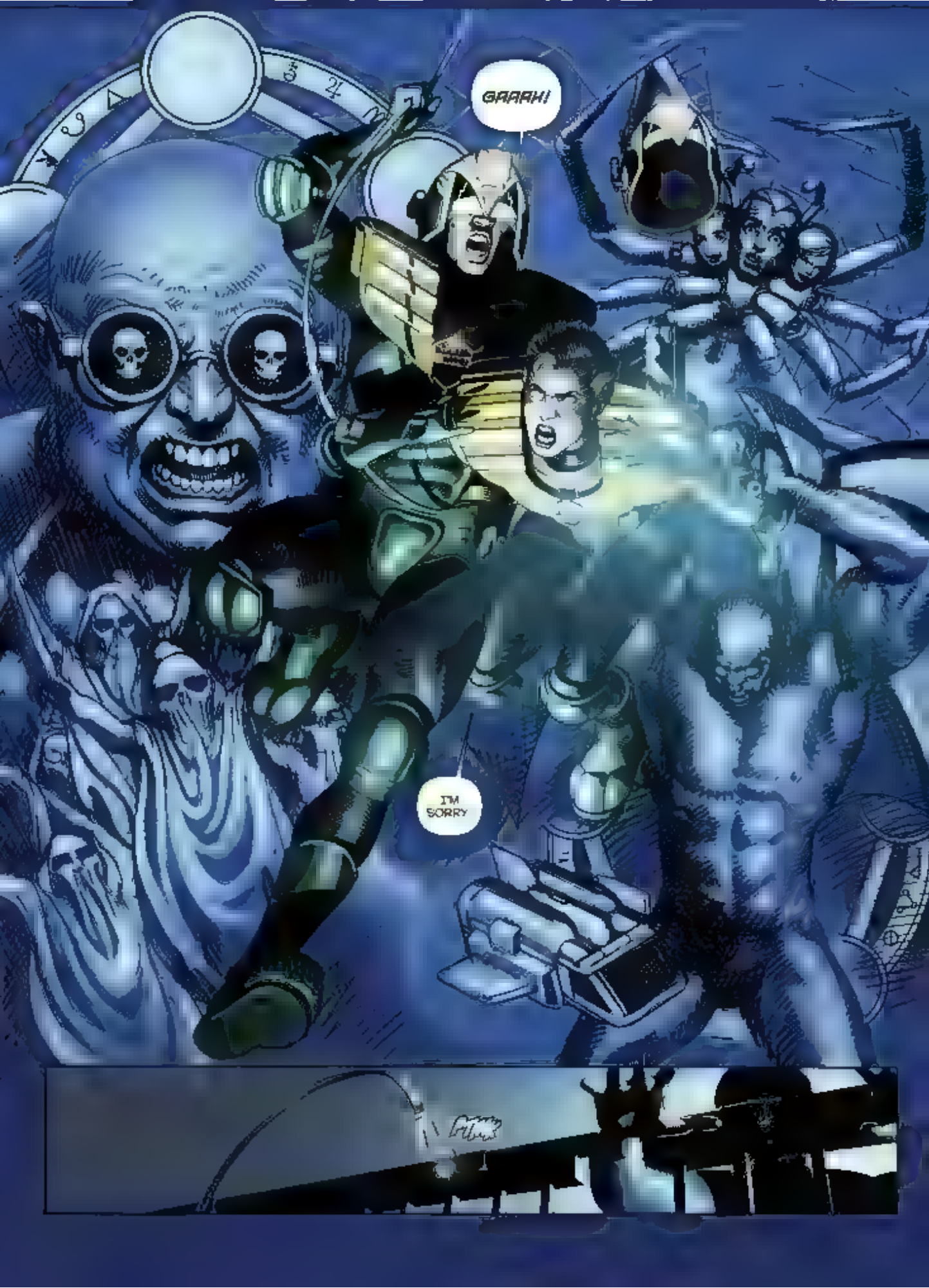
LOOKS LIKE IT PUNCHED STRAIGHT THROUGH.
STEADY AS SHE GOES. ANYTHING DOWN THERE?
ALL CLEAR SO FAR.
STORM, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO ASK BUT I'M GOING TO ANYWAY.
WHAT'RE WE LOOKING FOR DOWN THERE?
HONESTLY? I DON'T KNOW.
"BUT I KNOW THAT IT'S *DANGEROUS*.
"AND THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE *INTERESTED* YOU GET, THE MORE DANGEROUS IT BECOMES."
SO MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T TALK

ANY DAMAGE DOWN THERE?
NAH. NICE EASY WALK DOWN A MILLION OR SO STAIRS NOW.
BDAM
STOMM—!
JUDGE KNEALE OF BRIT-CIT SPECIAL FORCES
PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON!
I-I'M SO SORRY, JUDGE! I DIDN'T...I WOULDN'T SHOOT AT...IT WAS A MISTAKE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THEM!
HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
EVEN SO, FIRING AN UNLICENSED WEAPON AT
LISTEN!

THE SHOT.
OH.
BLOODY MARVELLOUS.
ALL RIGHT, THEN, LADS AND LADIES. LET'S BE HAVING YOU.
SEEMS OUR QUIET LITTLE STROLL'S BEEN CANCELLED
[●REC]
ARE YOU GETTING THIS, CONTROL?
MINE!
MINE! MINE.
WELL, THEY'RE SPRY. ANY IDEA WHAT THEY'RE AFTER, STORM?
SOME.
ANY CHANCE WE CAN LET THEM HAVE IT?
NONE.
DIDN'T THINK SO

STOP! STOP RIGHT THERE!
ALL RIGHT, RIOT FOAM 'EM.
MINE!
MINE!
OKAY, THAT SHOULD DO IT.
KILL THE FOAM.
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
MINE!
DROKK IT! THEY'RE STILL COMING!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SEAL OFF THE STAIRS COMPLETELY

SWEET JOVIS, THEY'RE TOO FAST!
MINE!
MINE!
SOD THIS!
RAPID FIRE!
STORM!
MINE
WHAT THE HELL ?
MINE
WAIT, YOU CAN'T!
I DON'T DO TOUCHING.
SORRY, LOVE, BUT I DON'T DO DYING.

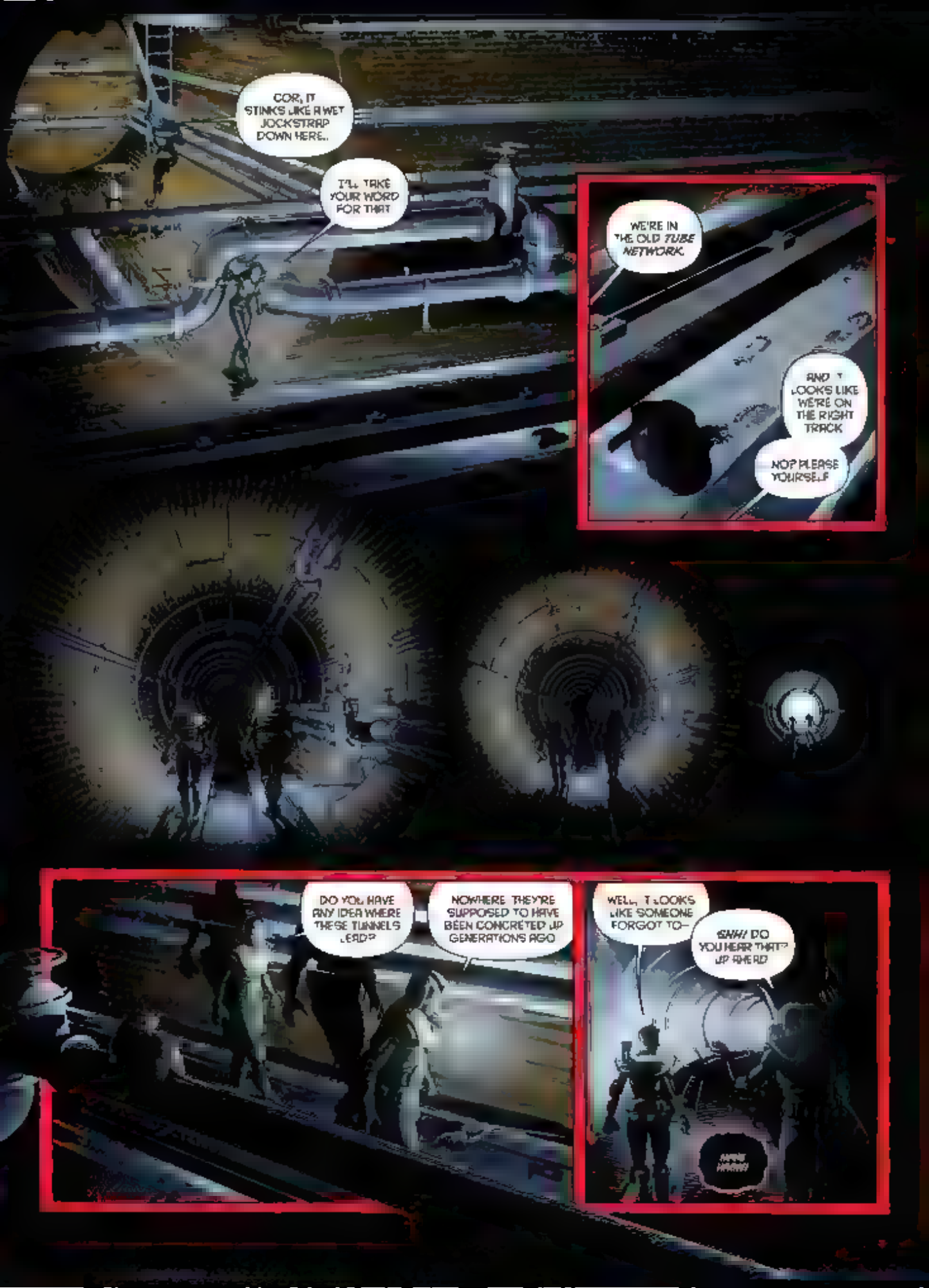

GAAAH!
I'M SORRY

UHHGN!

..YOU CAN'T LET GO, YOU HAVE TO CONCENTRATE!
LILLY, WAKE UP! PLEASE WAKE UP! LISTEN TO US!
YOU CAN'T GO! YOU KNOW WHAT LIVES THERE, IN THE WORLD BEYOND!
IF YOU LET GO, YOU'LL DRAG US ALL THERE WITH YOU!
WAKE UP, LILLY, WE'RE BEGGING YOU!
PLEASE, LILLY! YOU SAVED US ONCE, PLEASE DON'T LET GO OF US NOW!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
SAVE HER! SAVE HER! YOU MUST SAVE HER! SHE MUST NOT DIE! SAVE HER!

GAH!
STORM? STORM!
DON'T YOU DIE ON ME GIRL
ONE EL-E-PHANT.. TWO EL-E-PHANT.. THREE EL-E-PHANT
COME ON!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
SAVING YOUR LIFE, LOVE
WE FELL I SAW.. ALL KINDS OF MAD BLOODY STUFF.. AND THEN DOWN HERE THERE WERE.. KIDS.. GHOSTS?

I WARNED YOU.
I DON'T DO TOUCHING
CONTROL? CONTROL, DO YOU READ ME?
BLOODY THING'S DEAD
IT'S GONE
BY "IT" I ASSUME YOU MEAN THE MYSTERY OBJECT THAT TURNED ALL THOSE RESIDENT'S BRAINS TO MUNCE.
NO SIGN OF BURROUGHS, EITHER
YOU *KNOW* ABOUT BURROUGHS?
I SUPPOSE ROHMER HAD TO GIVE YOU *SOME* INFORMATION.
HE WENT THIS WAY.
BURROUGHS WAS *MILITARY*. TOP-SECRET STUFF. DISAPPEARED FOR A TIME
I DON'T KNOW MUCH, [redacted] TO BE *DANGEROUS* IF CORNERED
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'D PREFER *ME* TO GO FIRST, KNEALE?


COR, IT STINKS LIKE A WET JOCKSTRAP DOWN HERE..
I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR THAT
WE'RE IN THE OLD TUBE NETWORK.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK
NOP PLEASE YOURSELF
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THESE TUNNELS LEAD?
NOWHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN CONCRETED UP GENERATIONS AGO
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE FORGOT TO—
SHH! DO YOU HEAR THAT? UP AHEAD

MAKE HASTE, I SAY!
REDOUBLE YOUR EFFORTS!
"MAKE HASTE! MAKE HASTE!"
ORDERS. ALWAYS ORDERS
AN AUTO-TRANSPORTER IS ONE THING. ANY S'KID WITH HALF A BRAIN COULD HACK ONE.
TWEAKING THE NEURAL INTERFACE SO IT COULD HOME IN ON YOUR DIRECTIONS...
WELL. MAYBE THAT WAS A MISTAKE GIVEN THAT YOU CRASHED US, ACTUALLY.
ANYWAY, THIS IS MORE COMPLICATED. IT TAKES JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME.
MAKE HASTE!
OH, SHUT UP!

PSSSH
AND WE'RE IN.
BURROUGHS! STOP WHERE YOU ARE!
I'M JUDGE KNERLE, AND THIS IS JUDGE STORM OF PSI-DIVISION.
WHATEVER IT IS YOU'VE GOT THERE I WANT YOU TO HAND IT OVER TO HER *SLOWLY*
KNERLE, WAIT. I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD--
OH, DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT IT *IS*, JUDGE KNERLE?
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO *SEE*?

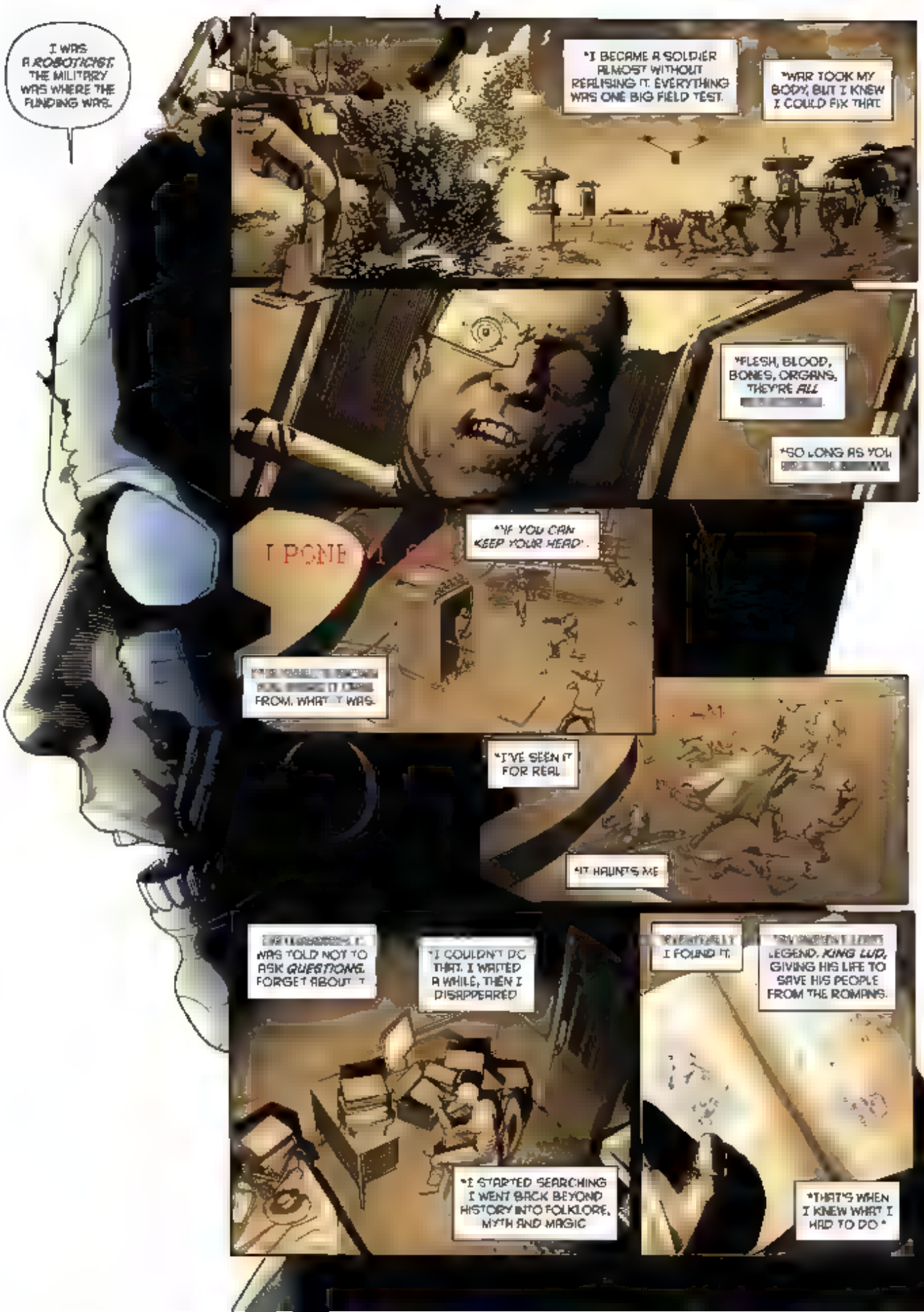
LOOK UPON ME!
DON'T LOOK AT IT
KNEALE! KNEALE!

KNEEL!
KNEEL?
KLIK
IT'S MINE, STORM!
MINE!

BLAM
LOOK UPON ME!
LOO—
-UMPH-
YES, THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT NOW, I THINK
'TIS MINE.
MINE!

OH, OL SET UP ILY
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT THE GLOVE SAVED YOU.
BUT, LILY, YOU MUSTN'T LOOK AT...
SEE THROUGH US.
THIS MUST HAVE BEEN A TUBE STATION ONCE
THEY'VE DONE A BIT OF REMODELLING
WOULD IT STILL LOOK LIKE THIS IF I WAS USING MY OWN EYES?
BECAUSE I'M SEEING SOME STRANGE THINGS HERE..
REALLY?
ENDANGERED SPECIES SQUAD, MAYBE?
BASTIAN
BOOM
KNERLE!

UNFF!
YOU POOR FOOL
DO YOU *GET* IT NOW? I'M NOT *LIKE* YOU!
I NEVER LOOKED UPON IT WITH *MORTAL EYES*, NOR TOUCHED IT WITH *HUMAN HANDS*!
IT'S *MINE*, BURROUGHS!
IT DOESN'T WANT *YOU*, IT WANTS *ME*
SNAP
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT WANTS YOU.
IT WANTS YOU TO *OBEY*
FOLLOW ORDERS.
I DON'T DO THAT ANY MORE


I WAS A *ROBOTICIST*. THE MILITARY WAS WHERE THE FUNDING WAS.
"I BECAME A SOLDIER ALMOST WITHOUT REALISING IT. EVERYTHING WAS ONE BIG FIELD TEST.
"WAR TOOK MY BODY, BUT I KNEW I COULD FIX THAT.
"FLESH, BLOOD, BONES, ORGANS, THEY'RE *ALL*
"SO LONG AS YOU
"IF YOU CAN *KEEP YOUR HEAD*...
FROM. WHAT
"I'VE SEEN IT FOR REAL.
"IT HAUNTS ME.
I FOUND IT.
LEGEND. *KING LUD*, GIVING HIS LIFE TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THE ROMANS.
WAS TOLD NOT TO ASK *QUESTIONS*. FORGET ABOUT
"I COULDN'T DO THAT. I WAITED A WHILE, THEN I DISAPPEARED.
"I STARTED SEARCHING. I WENT BACK BEYOND HISTORY INTO FOLKLORE, MYTH AND MAGIC.
"THAT'S WHEN I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO."

IT WASN'T THE SKULL YOU WERE AFTER
IT TRIED TO USE YOU, BUT YOU USED IT.
WHEN THE KING GAVE HIS HEAD, HIS BODY BECAME *UNKILLABLE*.
A THING OF *PURE RAGE* THAT JUST WENT ON AND ON FIGHTING
THE ONLY *WEAKNESS* WAS THE *HEAD*, SO IT WAS TAKEN FAR FAR AWAY AND HIDDEN.
TRAITOR! DECEIVER! ENEMY OF ENGLAND!
RISE UP AND TAKE ME FROM HIM! I COMMAND IT!
BUT WHY WOULD IT LEAD YOU HERE?
IT'S A *DEFENCE MECHANISM*. THE SKULL CONVINCES ANY MORTAL WHO LOOKS UPON IT THEY'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO REUNITE IT WITH ITS BODY
IF THEY AREN'T KILLED BY OTHER "*CHOSEN ONES*" ON THE WAY, THE KING IS SURE TO FINISH THE JOB
LIAR!
ARMOUR PIERCING!
KRAK

SKRSSSH
HOLD HIM BACK
MINE!
LOOK UPON ME!
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
SHOW ME
-GAVE MY LIFE TO SAVE MY PEOPLE
BODY WOULD BATTLE ON AND ON-
-HEAD TAKEN BY THE WITCH AND BURIED IN THE NORTH-
-FORGOTTEN-
-UNDYING CENTURIES BENEATH THE SOIL-
-ALWAYS SENSED BODY'S RAGE, ITS HATRED-
-LONGED TO CALL OUT, TO END IT ALL-

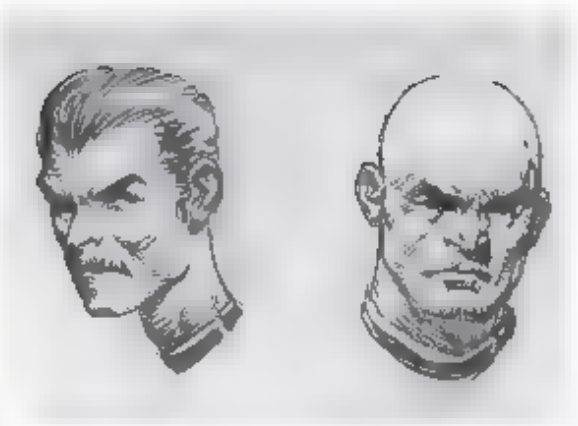
BURROUGHS, IT ISN'T A TRICK
HE WANTS TO STOP IT. HE WANTS PEACE.
XANPHEE
I'LL GIVE IT TO HIM!
THIS THING IS A WEAPON.
WELL, SO AM I!
PLATO WROTE THAT "ONLY THE DEAD HAVE SEEN AN END TO WAR" I WANT MY WAR TO BE OVER
BUT I COULDN'T LIVE KNOWING THIS THING WAS STILL OUT THERE
DROKK, HE'S WIRED--!
KNEEL, FETCH!

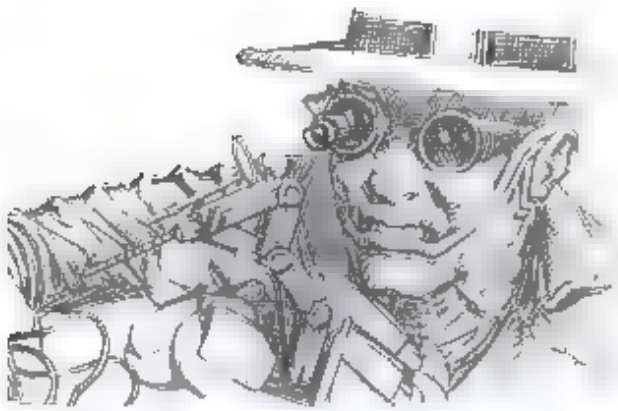
FIVE.
FOUR.
THREE.
TWO.
ONE.

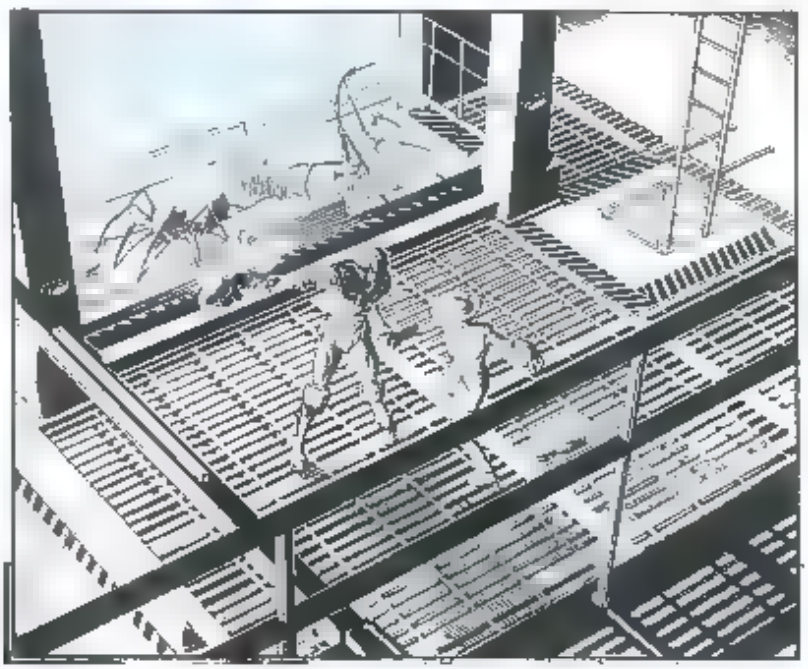
PSI-DIV HQ, EIGHT HOURS LATER:
..MADE SURE I SPOKE WITH ROHMER *IN PERSON*.
HE SET OUT TO BE *INCANDESCENT*...BY THE END I CONVINCED HIM HE WAS MERELY *DISAPPOINTED* BY SOMETHING WE DID OUR UTMOST TO PREVENT.
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JERICHO STRANGE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS NOT SO EASILY SWAYED
HE WAS, AND REMAINS, FURIOUS WITH THE DAMAGE TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES BESTIARY
ROUNDING UP THE ESCAPED CRYPTIDS WILL KEEP HIM, AND US, BUSY FOR A GOOD WHILE
STRANGE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS LID'S BODY. HE'D BEEN TOLD IT WAS A HORSEMAN OR SOMETHING
HE WASN'T HAPPY WITH ROHM.
WHAT ABOUT THE SKULL?
USELESS. TO ROHMER, I MEAN.
HARMLESS NOW.
THE, UH, SPELL CAN'T BE BROKEN WITHOUT THE BODY, THOUGH.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO IT?
"IT'S BEEN SET ASIDE
"GONE TO THE *ARCHIVE*."
LOOK UPON ME!

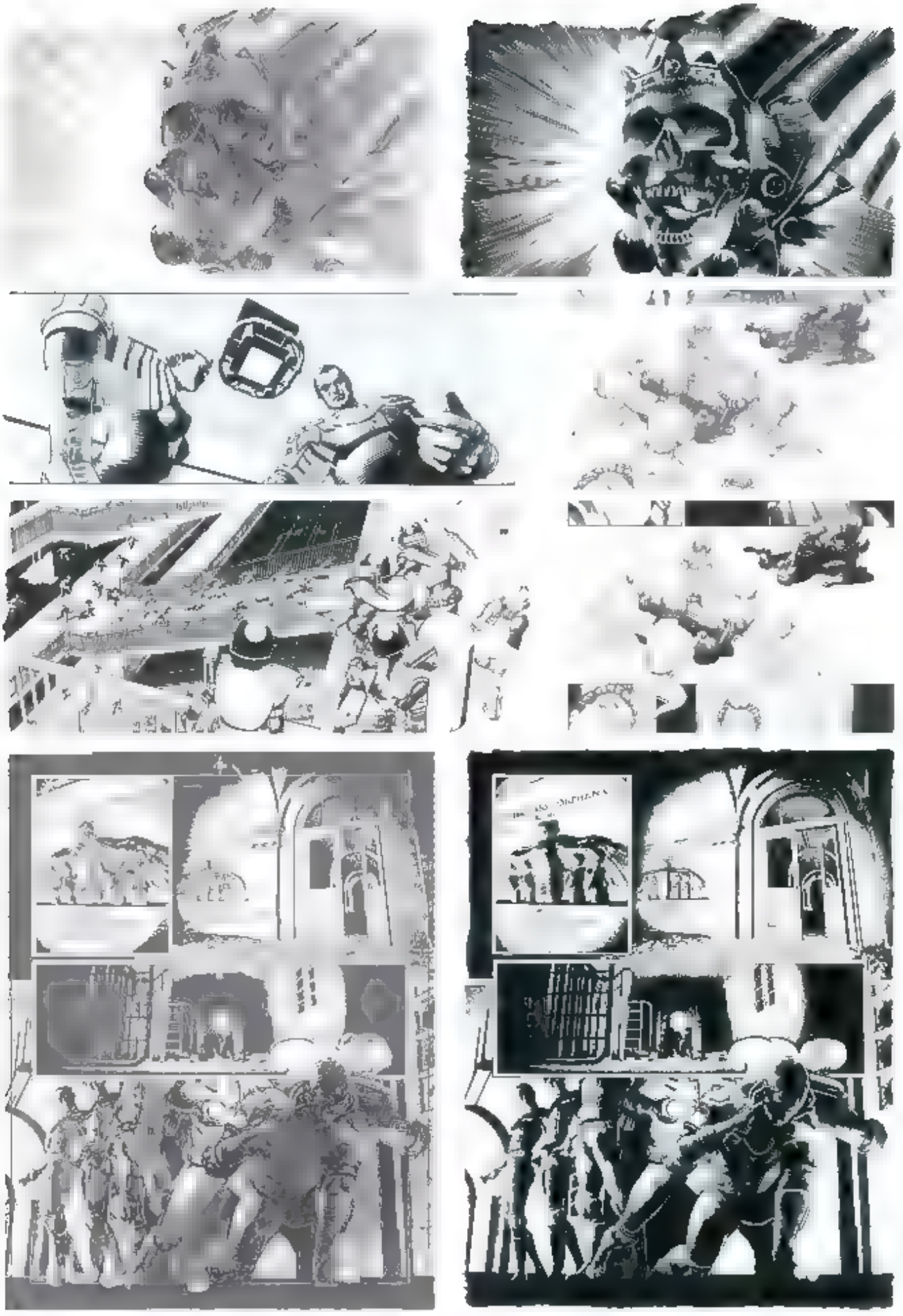
COVER GALLERY & TOM FOSTER SKETCHBOOK

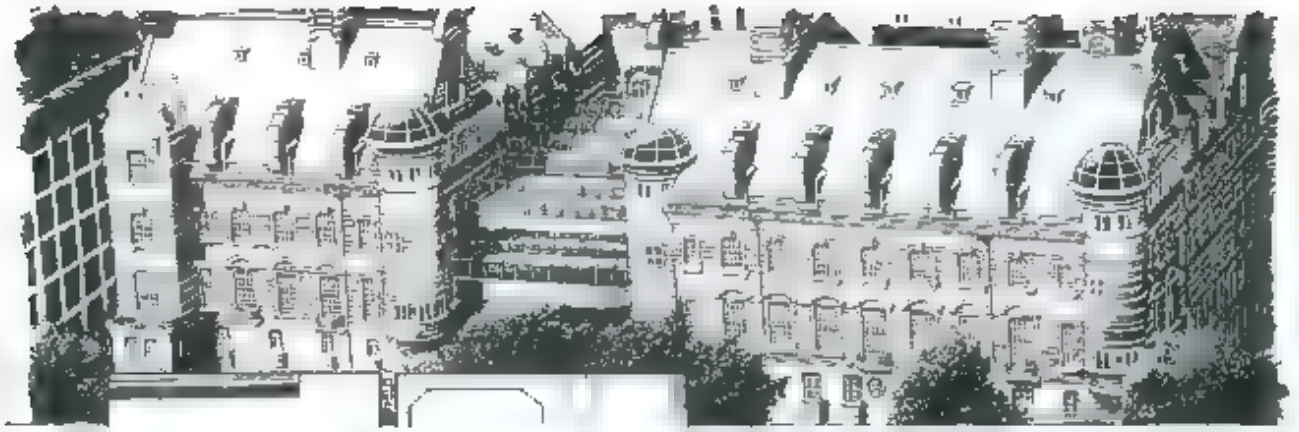
Judge Dredd Megazine 362. Cover by Alex Ronald

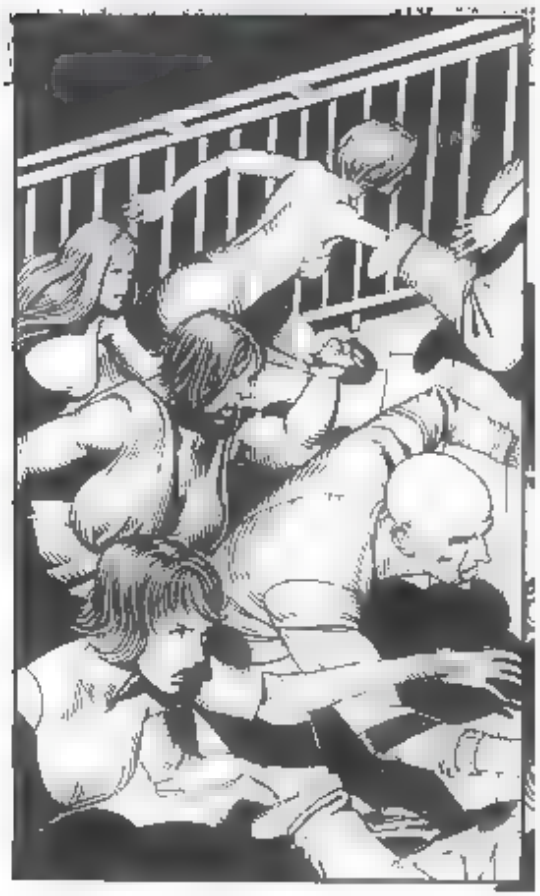


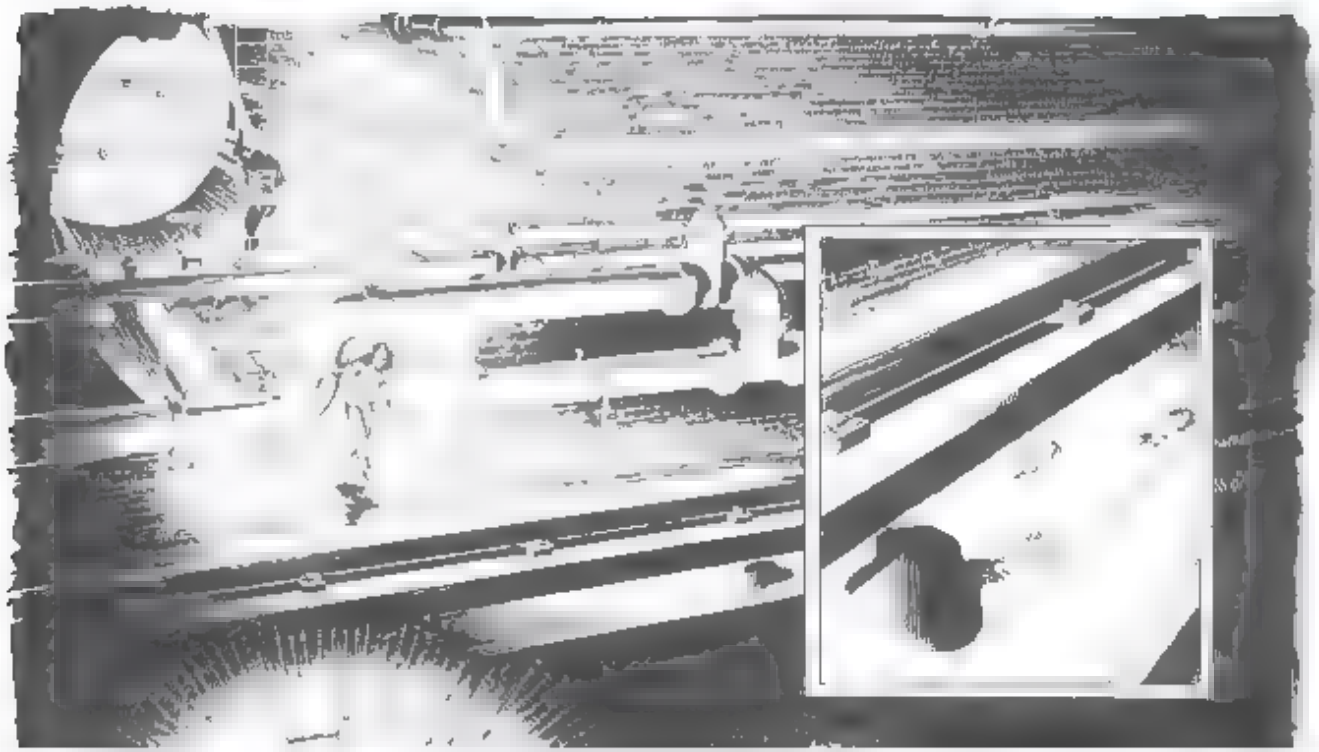


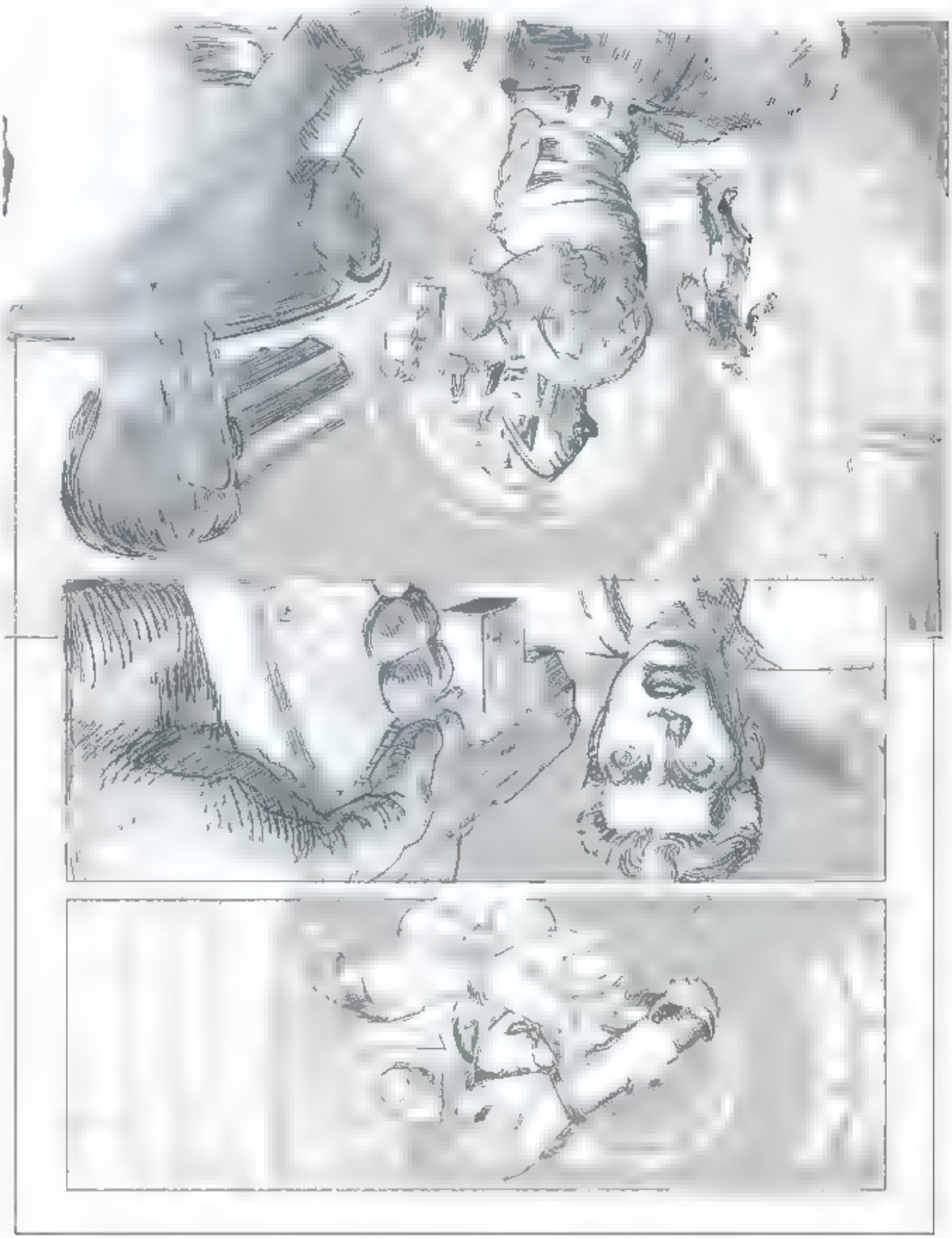




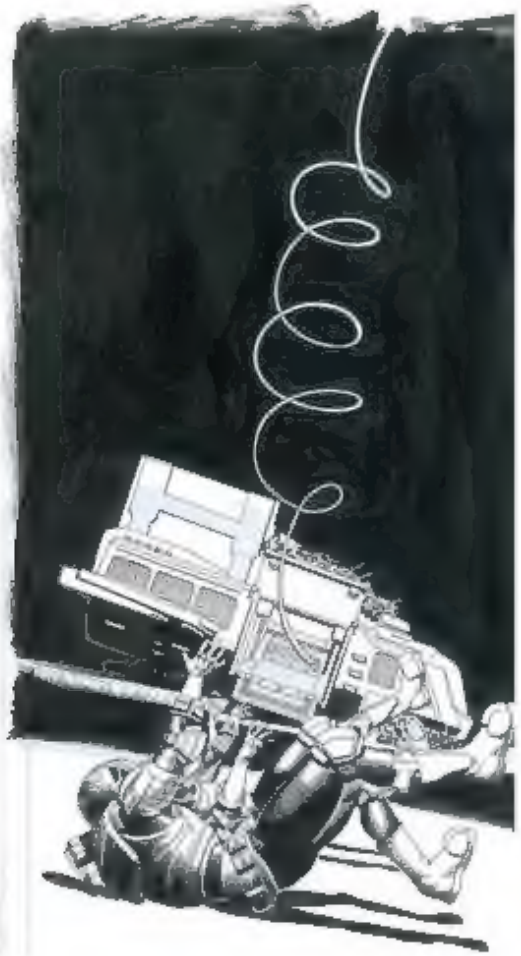








HOBB'S
LANE 807



WRITERS

John Smith is unquestionably a *2000 AD* hero, with a host of creative credits to his name, including *A Love Like Blood*, *Devlin Waugh*, *Firekind*, *Holocaust 12*, *Indigo Prime*, *Pussyfoot 5*, *Revere*, *Slaughterbowl*, *Tyranny Rex*, *Leatherjack*, *DeadEyes* and *Cradlegrave*. Smith has also written *Future Shocks*, *Judge Dredd*, *Judge Karyn*, *Pulp Sci-Fi*, *Robo-Hunter*, *RogueTrooper*, *Tales from Beyond Science*, *Vector 13* and *Tales from the Black Museum*.
Smith's work beyond the Galaxy's Greatest Comic includes the long-running *New Statesmen* series in Crisis, DC/Vertigo's *Hellblazer* and *Scarab*, and Harris Comics' *Vampirella*.

Leah Moore has been a comic writer for thirteen years now, with husband John Reppion, and has written *Irene Adler*, *Doctor Who*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Red Sonja*, *Dejah Thoris*,and recently *Black Shuck*, *Durham Red* and *Storm Warning* for *2000 AD* and *The Megazine*, which felt like coming home. She also writes a regular column for *Comic Heroes*, project manages digital comics ecosystem *Electricomics* and has three energetic small boys. Will work for spa weekends @leahmoore www.moorereppion.com

John Reppion has been writing for thirteen years. He has written comics with wife Leah Moore, including *The trial of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Complete Dracula*, *Shadow over Innsmouth*, *Raise The Dead*, and *Damsels*, he is a regular columnist for *TheDailyGrail.com* and writes articles for *Fortean Times* magazine. He is tired. So tired. Will work for beer. @johnreppion www.moorereppion.com

ARTISTS

Since joining *2000 AD* in 1986 **Colin MacNeil** has worked on many strips, including *Chopper: Song of the Surfer* and the infamous *death of Johnny Alpha* in *Strontium Dog: The Final Solution*. He went on to collaborate with John Wagner on the award-winning *America* for the *Judge Dredd Megazine*. He has also worked on *Shimura*, *Maelstrom* and *Fiends of the Eastern Front: Stalingrad*, and, outside of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, provided the atmospheric artwork on *Bloodquest* for Games Workshop. He also enjoys creating large abstract paintings. He says it's art therapy!

Tom Foster is a relatively new face in the comics world. He is best known for his work in *2000 AD* and the *Judge Dredd Megazine*, but he has also produced work for *Imagine FX*, Disconnected Press and satirical activists, *The Yes Men*. He is also known for his stand-up comedy and can often be seen performing at comedy clubs in Edinburgh and Glasgow. *Storm Warning* is his first series for a major publisher.

BRIT-CIT NOIR

THE BRITISH EQUIVALENT OF MEGA-CITY ONE, BRIT-CIT IS A SPRAWLING METROPOLIS THAT COVERS ALL OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND, and governs several territories, including Cal-Hab and the South Welsh Peninsula. Brit-Cit suffers from many of the same problems as other Mega-Cities, but is also a focal point for an abundance of weird, occult occurrences.

STRANGE & DARKE – NEW BLOOD

Detective Inspector Jericho Strange heads up the Endangered Species Squad – a unit within the Brit-Cit Justice Department charged with investigating these arcane cases. Partnered with Psi-Judge Bekky Darke, Strange's exposure to a supernatural artefact called the 'Black Mirror' has left him with a face you will never forget...

STORM WARNING – THE RELIC

Lillian Storm is a psychically powerful Judge in the Brit-Cit Justice Department's Psi-Division. Unfortunately, her abilities are just as much a curse as they are a talent. Can she keep her power in check whilst trying to retrieve a deadly relic and stop an ancient hex which plagues the land?

FROM THE PAGES OF JUDGE DREDD

2000 AD

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